

Did they hack into the phone of Josie's father?

By Chris Britcher

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DR Shaun Russell, father of the sole survivor of the brutal hammer attack that killed his wife and youngest daughter 15 years ago, has become the latest to take legal action against News International amid allegations of phone hacking.

Dr Russell was among another tranche of 13 alleged victims to launch civil action against the publishing company - the former publishers of the News of the World.

It brings the total number of people taking court action against the company to more than 60. The new cases come as a result of the judge considering the cases setting a dead-

line for new claims prior to the hearing of a test case in January.

The inclusion of Dr Russell on the list will stun those who remember the brutal crime which robbed him of so much of his family.

As his wife Lin, 45, and daughters Josie, nine, and Megan, six, walked from their school in Goodnestone towards their home in Chillenden, they were attacked by a man who bludgeoned Megan and Lin to death, before leaving little Josie for dead. However, she survived and made a miraculous recovery. Both she and her father now live in North Wales. Michael Stone, from Gillingham, was found guilty of the murders and attempted murder.



County bids farewell to Graham Dilley

FULL STORY - SEE INSIDE

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CINEMA

Brad Pitt gets town showing

WHITSTABLE Electric Theatre - the group set up to bring the big screen back to the town - has announced its second showing, after its debut screening of the latest Pirates of the Caribbean movie. It will show Palm d'Or winner The Tree of Life at the Horsebridge on November 4.

COUNCIL

Grove Ferry boat licensed

THE city council has issued its first licence to a local pleasure boat operator under its new licensing scheme designed to control boat operations. The operators of Grove Ferry River Trips secured a licence for its 12-seat electric craft it has run at the Grove Ferry Inn since 2010.

THEATRE

Crowds flock for theatre fun

THE new Marlowe Theatre opened its doors to thousands of people at the weekend. Crowds flocked to the new venue to enjoy a host of entertainment, explore the building and meet the staff. The theatre's opening gala took place last Tuesday.

WILDLIFE

Breeding bitterns return to reserve for first time in 40 years

BITTERNS are back breeding at Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve for the first time in 40 years.

Staff and volunteers at the reserve say they are delighted to have the birds back and comes as a result of fine-tuning the habitat over recent years.

Adult birds were spotted last month leading juveniles through the marsh, staying for three weeks before heading

for their winter roosts.

Bitterns are highly secretive wetland birds and live most of their time within dense stands of reed, making them difficult to spot.

Natural England's Kent reserves manager, Becky Plunkett, said: "We've made changes to the way the water levels are being managed and cut back some of the reeds to create areas of young reed

growth that the bitterns like. This work has taken place over the last couple of years and it's this year that everything has come together at the right time. Having the bitterns breeding here again is a great reward for the staff and volunteers for all their hard work."

The males have a distinct call - a booming 'song' which can be heard several miles away.

The bittern has had a rollercoaster history in Britain, as the bird was extinct as a nesting species between 1886 and 1911.

This is the first time the species has bred at Stodmarsh for more than 40 years, but they do breed elsewhere in Kent, notably Dungeness.

■ For all the latest news see www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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Stars pay tribute to fast bowling Ashes hero Graham Dilley

By Chris Britcher

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WITH a full head of flowing blond hair and standing 6ft 4in, he was an instantly recognisable scourge of batsmen around the world – and this week generations of cricketing heroes lined up to pay tribute to Graham Dilley.

The death on Wednesday of the former Kent and England hero shook the sporting world.

He had faced a short battle with cancer. He was just 52.

Speaking to KoS this week, former Kent and England batsman Chris Tavaré, now a school teacher in Sevenoaks, said: "I was hoping to get to see him this weekend but obviously things took a turn for the worse quicker than anticipated, it's very sad. He was a good friend and a very good bowler."

After a glittering playing career, Mr Dilley had enjoyed spells as part of the England national coaching set-up, before in recent years becoming head cricket coach at Loughborough University.

It is believed he was admitted to a hospice in Leicestershire at the start of the week.

He was twice divorced and leaves four children, including Chris Pennell, captain of Premiership rugby club Worcester Warriors.

Born in Dartford, the young bowler quickly established himself as a talent to watch and by 18 he made his first class debut for Kent in a match against Cambridge University.

He would not properly establish himself at the St Lawrence for another year, however, when he would settle down and form a key part of a side which featured the likes of Bob Woolmer, Chris Tavaré and Derek Underwood.

A surprise inclusion in the 1979 Ashes touring squad, his star was in the ascendancy, and in 1981 he wrote his name in the history books when he formed part of the quick-fire stand with Ian Botham at the famous Ashes Test in Headingley.

Proving his prowess with the bat, he and Botham bashed out 117 runs in just 80 minutes, Dilley securing his first half-century en route to a vital 56 which would pave the way for perhaps England's most famous ever victory.

Botham had famously told him as he walked to the crease "let's give it some humpty". He did just that.

By 1986 his relationship with Kent soured and he opted to sign for the ambitious Worcestershire, along with Botham – forming a key part of their team which won back-

to-back championship titles in 1988 and 1989.

By opting to play on the rebel tour of South Africa he brought down the curtain on his England career, and with recurring injuries he called time on his playing career in 1992.

After retiring, he moved into coaching and enjoyed spells as an assistant coach with the England men's team and bowling coach to the England women's team before taking up a position at Loughborough University.

Chairman of Kent Cricket Club, George Kennedy, said: "The entire club are saddened by the passing of Graham, who served Kent with great distinction during his time here. Our thoughts are with his family at this tragic time."

England star Kevin Pietersen said he was "an amazing guy – always smiling", team-mate Stuart Broad added he was a "wonderful fast bowler and lovely man".

Botham added: "He had a good sense of humour and always wanted to be a part of the party."

"He was quiet and reserved until you got to know him. It's a very sad day."

■ **Read more of Chris Tavaré's memories of playing with Graham Dilley on our sports pages.**



STAR: Graham Dilley proved his skill in 1981 when he played his part in securing what is possibly England's most famous Ashes victory

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Russell hacking claim

DR Shaun Russell – father of the sole survivor of a hammer attack which saw his wife and youngest daughter killed – has joined the list of people taking legal action against News International amid allegations of phone hacking. Josie Russell was nine when she and her family were attacked as they walked home through Chillenden near Canterbury. Her sister Megan, six, and mother Lin were both murdered in the 1996 attack. Michael Stone was convicted of their killings. This week Dr Russell was among 13 alleged victims of the phone hacking scandal to file civil claims.

➔ NHS 'destroyed files'

AN NHS trust has been told there is "no excuse" for the bungle that saw 10,000 archived records accidentally destroyed. Health chiefs at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust have been unable to establish how many of the records contained personal information, but some did have names and addresses of former patients and some staff, and a "limited amount" of medical information. The Information Commissioner's Office ruled the trust breached the Data Protection Act.

➔ Dancing to new record

MORE than 1,000 dancing queens who performed a special Abba routine along Broadstairs Prom have set an official Guinness World Record for the biggest remote dance class.

The event was held in May as part of the Big Broadstairs Weekend to promote the town. Money raised from the dance was donated to the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign and the QEQM hospital special babies unit.

NHS

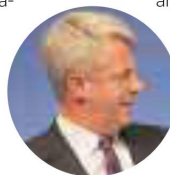
Experts' health reform warning

LEADING health professionals in Kent are among almost 400 experts warning that plans to reform the NHS risk causing "irreparable harm".

In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph on the day Health Secretary Andrew Lansley (pictured) spoke at the Tory Party conference, experts from across the country said the changes must be rejected as they represent a risk to patient care and safety.

Among those who signed the letter were Amy Bird, speciality registrar in public health for Kent; Professor Stephen Clift, professor of health education at Canterbury Christ Church University; Dr Linda Garvican, quality assurance director for cancer screening programmes at NHS South East Coast; and Dr Angela Bhan, director of public health and managing director of Bromley Business Support Unit.

The doctors suggested the NHS reforms – due to be discussed in the House of Lords next week – will fragment services, possibly threatening vaccination and screening campaigns.



They wrote: "As public health doctors and specialists, we are concerned about the Health and Social Care Bill. The bill will do irreparable harm to the NHS, to individual patients and to society as a whole."

"The Government claims the reforms have the backing of the health professions. They do not. Neither do they have the public's support."

"The Health and Social Care Bill will erode the NHS's ethical and co-operative foundations and will not deliver efficiency, quality, fairness or choice."

A Department of Health spokesman said plans to reform the NHS will give patients more choice, root out waste, and give NHS staff more power to improve care.

He added that a group of the country's top doctors and NHS experts had already analysed the health bill, and that the department had accepted all their recommendations to improve it.

"Many GPs and other doctors have also already spoken out in support," he said.

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All business plans received as part of this process will be treated in strictest confidence and seen by only the principle investors and nominated advisors to Company Investment Club

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- Pan fried wood pigeon drizzled with a red wine, thyme and juniper berry jus
- Baked French camembert served with a crusty roll, cranberry & onion chutney

Main Course

- Butternut squash half filled with cannellini beans, mozzarella cheese, peppers and tomatoes, topped with pumpkin and sunflower seed crumb
- Traditional roast turkey, stuffing, served with Christmas seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes accompanied by a yorkshire pudding, sausage wrapped in smoked bacon and finished with a rich winter gravy
- Tender lamb shank, served pink, in a rich rosemary gravy served with new potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables
- Highland smoked salmon mousse with a soft mustard and dill centre, served with a salad garnish, lemon wedge and a warm crusty roll
- Homemade steak and winter ale pie with new potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

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HEALTH CARE

Silent struggles as dementia sufferers remain undiagnosed

By Marijke Cox
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THOUSANDS of people are living with undiagnosed dementia across Kent.

The Alzheimer's Society estimates 13,649 people are secretly struggling through their daily lives with the condition, with the number of undiagnosed cases estimated to rise to almost 19,000 by 2021.

The organisation says 21,506 people currently have dementia; 10,606 in eastern and coastal Kent; 8,468 in west Kent; and 2,432 in Medway. But thousands of those cases are undiagnosed, with an estimated 6,886 in the east of the county – 65 per cent of people with dementia – 5,351 in the west (63 per cent) and 1,412 in Medway (58 per cent). The number of undiagnosed cases is expected to rise to 9,297, 7,512 and 1,963 respectively by 2021.

The Alzheimer's Society ran a series of roadshows across the county this week as part of a drive to raise awareness and offer support to people living with dementia.

Communities can request for the roadshow to visit a Tesco store near them.

South East area manager of the Alzheimer's Society, Chris Wyatt, said the high number of people living with the condition without help or support was concerning, and that the roadshow scheme was vital.

"It will help us reach out to communities, tackle stigma by raising awareness of the condition, and encourage people who are worried about their memory to visit their GP," he said.

The number of people developing the degenerative brain disease, which affects memory, is



SECRET: Thousands of cases are undiagnosed

expected to grow as people live longer.

It is estimated that by 2012 almost 30,000 people in Kent will have the condition, almost 9,000 more cases than now, but nearly 19,000 – more than half – will remain undiagnosed.

Whitstable GP Dr Gunalakshman Kanagasooriam, who has a special interest in dementia, said patients and carers can be afraid of diagnosis.

"They think they will be unsupported once they are diagnosed or simply feel that nothing can be done in the 'early stages' of the disease.

"However, in this area we have a programme of GP education in dementia care and work in partnership to improve patient pathways into services such as dementia café s, Admiral Nurses, and shared care, with the local voluntary sector actively participating in new developments."

During the last two years a range of dementia care services have been rolled out in Kent and Medway by the NHS.

Evelyn White, associate director for integrated

commissioning for NHS Kent and Medway, said significant work was undertaken to improve support to sufferers and their carers.

"We work closely with partners such as Kent County Council, the Alzheimer's Society and local GPs to raise awareness, improve early diagnosis and provide high quality local services," she said.

"There are well established memory assessment clinics across Kent and Medway to support early diagnosis of dementia. The community mental health teams for older people together with the home treatment service in east Kent, the Dementia Support Service in Medway and the crisis response service in west Kent, provide vital support for people with dementia.

"Further investment is being made in these teams, together with a crisis response service in east Kent and Medway during 2011-12 to ensure that people can be well supported at home in the event of a crisis.

"There is further work to do as we strive to improve services for patients and their families."

■ **To request an Alzheimer's Society roadshow to be held at a Tesco store near you go to www.alzheimers-tesco.org.uk.**

■ **For help through NHS Kent and Medway go to www.dementiawebkentandmedway.org.uk or for the 24-hour dementia helpline call 0800 500 3014.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Maternity consultation

A THREE-month consultation the future of maternity services in east Kent will be launched on Friday, 14 October.

Public meetings in November and December will give members of the public the chance to ask questions.

The consultation is being led by NHS Kent and Medway and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. More details at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/maternityreview.

➔ Brave RAF hero dies

AN RAF Battle of Britain hero who helped raise money for the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne, while living in Australia, has died at the age of 92.

Flight Lieutenant Charles (Tich) Palliser was a supporter of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust and its plans to build a new learning centre at the National Memorial. His daughter Gill made bookmarks of the silk from her father's wartime parachute and has been selling them to raise funds for the appeal.

➔ Crisps get new deal

SUPERMARKET giant Waitrose is to stock all four flavours of Kent Crisps at selected stores in the county.

Launched in March, Kent Crisps have sold more than 250,000 packets – ahead of expected demand. They are made from potatoes grown at the Quex Park Estate, Birchington, using sustainable methods.

ENTERTAINMENT

Curtain rises on a glitzy new era for the Marlowe Theatre

A GLITZY audience gathered for the first official performance at the new Marlowe theatre in Canterbury.

The invited crowd included Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and his wife Sophie Rhys-Jones.

The Prince is the Royal Patron of the New Marlowe Development Trust.

The packed theatre was treated to an evening of high-brow entertainment from the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Bass singer, Sir John Tomlinson and soprano Carmen Giannattasio entertained with music by Mozart, Rossini, Puccini, Wagner and Verdi.

The £25.6 million theatre has 1,200 seats, three bars and a new riverside café.

Many members of Tuesday's audience had contributed to the theatre's trust fund which raised more than £4m.

The old Marlowe, a converted 1930s cinema, was demolished in 2009.



Picture: TIM STUBBINGS

LANDMARK OPENING: The Earl and Countess of Wessex

The modern design by architect Keith Williams includes a triangular fly tower lit up with purple lights.

After the gala performance the Prince unveiled the opening plaque on stage. He joked it might be a bit of an anticlimax compared to the entertainment that had gone before.

Prince Edward said: "As anyone walking through the

doors, either front of house or backstage, will have quickly realised this is nothing like the old Marlowe Theatre.

"One thing this evening's celebrations are not about is a re-opening, Canterbury has a splendid new landmark.

"Kent has an exciting new performing arts space and the region has a new venue which is capable of attracting the best performers in the land and beyond."

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "Our Opening Gala was a huge success and one of the smoothest run events I have ever experienced."

The new Marlowe will be staging a series of events for the public over the weekend to celebrate the opening.

Cllr John Gilbey, leader of Canterbury City Council said: "This theatre is a gift to the community and for generations to come."

■ **To read more news go to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

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News

POLICY

Parties collide on 'meddling' EU call for 20mph urban limit

By Marijke Cox

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POLITICAL parties have clashed over an EU decision to back 20mph limits in urban areas.

Strong recommendations were made in the European Parliament last week for an EU-wide urban speed limit of 20mph.

Although the support lacks the force of law, recommendations made in the European Parliament can be influential in shaping policy within governments on a national and local level.

But the move has sparked a clash between the Green Party and Conservative members in Kent.

Maidstone Green Party, which has been pushing for a drop in speed around schools, celebrated the EU support, stating there was now no excuse for residential roads to remain at 30mph.

"Councillors need to seize this opportunity to make life better for all," said spokesman Stuart Jeffery.

In August, highways chiefs at Kent County Council announced they would be trialling a 20mph speed limit around six primary schools in Maidstone early next year in a bid to improve road safety.

Mr Jeffery said: "The council is dipping its toe into 20mph zones outside schools, which is a step in the right direction, but the weight of opinion must now quickly take them to making all of our streets safer."

"The vast majority of residents would feel and be safer with cars coming past their houses at 20mph instead of 30mph."

Green South East MEP Keith Taylor added:

"This limit would ensure drivers have to respect the same road rules no matter where they drive, making it easier for drivers and safer for all those on or near our roads."

But while the Greens were celebrating, Tory MEPs condemned the recommendations.

They claimed it was an example of EU "meddling".

Daniel Hannan, who represents the South East, including Kent, in Brussels, said the proposal was another example of Europe trying to dictate to Britain on issues that should be decided locally.

"Of course speed limits as low as 20mph or so can be right in some very specific areas, especially near schools or nurseries, but every location is different and these decisions need to be made case by case. Not by a Europe-wide edict."

A potential change to motorway speed has also been discussed this week, with transport secretary Philip Hammond confirming plans to consult on raising the limit to 80mph.

Speaking at the Conservative Party conference this

week, he said the current 70mph limit had become "discredited" and failed to keep pace with advances in motoring.

But Maidstone Green Party's Mr Jeffery said local members would campaign against the proposed rise.

"Fuel costs and CO2 emissions will increase significantly, as will accidents and air pollution," he said.

"The M20 corridor already suffers with bad air quality – an 80mph limit would simply make this worse."

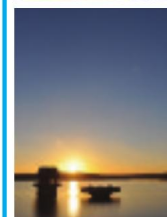


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HEALTH CARE

Hospitals merger raises patient watchdog hackles

By Steve Knight

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A HEALTH watchdog says newly published details about the proposed merger of two struggling hospitals fail to address patients' concerns.

Last week the boards of Medway NHS Foundation Trust, and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, agreed to move forward with plans to combine a range of services at Medway and Darent Valley hospitals.

Children's services, A&E, maternity and outpatients will remain on both sites if the merger – the first of its kind in Kent – gets the go-ahead, but concerns remain that some people will have to travel long distances to access other treatments.

Mark Fittock, a governor of the Kent Local Involvement Network (LINK), said: "I live in Swanley and people here already have to travel a fair distance to Darent Valley following the closure of A&E and maternity at Queen Mary's Hospital (in Sidcup). If we have to go all the way down to Medway for other services

then it becomes quite difficult.

"It's even worse if you live somewhere like Sheerness, as getting to Darent Valley from there is a day's journey really.

"It's a good start that A&E and maternity services will be retained at both hospitals, but what about everything else? What we are trying to do is get them to be more specific."

In April Medway NHS Foundation Trust was criticised by the health watchdog Monitor for being in "significant breach" of the terms relating to its foundation trust status by failing to meet its financial plans.

And late last month the Government warned Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust was "on the brink of financial collapse" due to the spiralling cost of the Private Finance Initiative which funded Darent Valley.

The plan to merge the two trusts was first touted back in March. The hospitals will now develop detailed plans – with input from GP commissioners, staff and patients – which will need to be approved by Monitor and the Department of Health.

Medway chief executive Mark Devlin said: "Our local population is growing and has increasingly complex healthcare needs. We need to find ways of improving local hospital services and do more within our constrained budgets.

"By working together we can build on those aspects of our hospitals which already represent the very best of the NHS, and create a stronger range of local services for local people."

The merger process is expected to take about a year to complete and the trusts hope to become one organisation in the summer of 2012.

Mr Fittock, who will represent Kent LINK throughout the amalgamation, said patients will need assurances both hospitals will be given equal priority.

He said: "When Pembury Hospital was being built, management took their eye off the ball and let things go at Maidstone. We need to know how they're going to balance the needs of both communities."

■ For more news and sport see www.yourmedway.co.uk.

RECOGNITION

Biology head Rob is top teacher in country

AN Ashford School science teacher has won a national award at an event hosted by the Prince of Wales' stepson.

Head of biology Rob Turner was named top teacher at the Archant Good Schools Show, hosted by food writer and broadcaster Tom Parker Bowles.

Mr Turner, who joined the boarding school in 2004 and also rehearses one of its five rock bands, faced competition from across the UK.

Ashford School was also voted one of the top five boarding schools and was a runner-up in the outstanding contribution to the community.

Archant is a regional newspaper, magazine, contract printing and e-publishing media group, and owns this newspaper.

FOOD AND DRINK

Sheps rings changes

SHEPHERD Neame has bought the historic Bell Hotel in Sandwich for £3.6 million.

The famous 37-bedroom hotel is a further addition to the Kent brewery's growing estate, now totalling seven hotels and 450 rooms across the South East. The acquisition follows Shepherd Neame's recent purchase of the Fayreness Hotel in Broadstairs.

Retail director Nigel Bunting said: "The Bell is a well known, prestigious hotel, ideal for business travellers, visitors on short breaks, keen golfers and customers looking for a high-quality function venue."

CASH-STRAPPED: Medway NHS Foundation Trust, which includes Medway Maritime Hospital, has been slammed for failing to meet its financial plans. It is now set to merge with the equally struggling Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

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POLICE

'Naive' Iraq veteran slammed for police ambitions

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN ARMY veteran famed for an inspirational Iraq War speech has been branded "naive" after declaring his intention to become Kent's first police commissioner.

Colonel Tim Collins was awarded an OBE after delivering the morale-boosting message to troops – a copy of which was hung in the Oval Office by then-President George W Bush – on the eve of the conflict in March, 2003.

The Whitstable resident, who resigned from the Army a year later and now runs a firm training foreign policemen, announced this week that he wants to represent

the Conservatives in becoming Kent's first elected police commissioner.

But the chairman of Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, says the Northern Irishman could be in for a shock if his bid is successful.

"Col Collins served this country well and was an inspirational leader," he said. "But this is the police, not the military. It's a completely different world."

"I think he's shown a high degree of political naivety because Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are not going to be leading the police – that will still be the job of the chief constables. There will be no eve-of-battle speeches here."

Due to be introduced next



CANDIDATE: Col Tim Collins

year, PCCs will replace the police authorities currently responsible for hiring chief constables and holding them to account.

The chairwoman of Kent Po-

lice Authority is Ann Barnes, who sits as one of seven independent members alongside seven Tories, one Labour and one Lib Dem.

Col Collins – who this week told KoS reporters he was too busy to speak about his plans to stand in Kent – was born in Belfast and served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq before quitting the Army in 2004 after becoming disillusioned.

The 51-year-old told the Sunday Telegraph he was inspired by the achievements of former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who reduced crime through tougher policing.

"He made New York a better place through community partnership and involving people, and I don't see why we

couldn't do the same," he said.

"This is a job for someone energetic and who is willing to work with the chief constable. It's important it doesn't become just a talking shop for knackered old policemen or a sunset gig for some trough-loving councillor."

Kent Police is currently battling to save £50 million over four years due to a 20 per cent cut in government funding.

Jobs are on the line as a result, including 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

"A big point Col Collins missed about Rudy Giuliani was that he cut crime with rising police numbers," said Mr Pointon. "It wasn't just down to tougher policing and partnership working. It was be-

cause he had more cops than he did before, and we forget that at our peril."

"The role of the PCC takes us into potentially dangerous new ground around the politicisation of the police. They will have the power to hire and fire chief constables, which will present unwelcome pressure leading up to elections."

"I can't see what's fundamentally wrong with the current system. Is it perfect? Absolutely not, but I don't think it's broken. At a time when we're cutting officer numbers and budgets are shrinking, we would be better off spending the £2m it's going to cost per election on policing."

Kent Police Authority declined to comment.

TOURISM

Historic sites top the list for ultimate experience

IT MAY have given one of our humble towns a pasting earlier this year, but leading travel guide Lonely Planet has redeemed itself by selecting two of Kent's celebrated landmarks for its 'world's ultimate experience' list.

Canterbury Cathedral and Sissinghurst Castle Garden joined a host of other famous attractions, including Stonehenge in Wiltshire and the Tower of London, in the new guide to the 1,000 Ultimate Sights.

Listing everything from the world's most romantic views to the most bizarre monuments, the guide presents the unmissable spectacles the world has to offer.

In its pages are the 'Most Amazing Churches and Cathedrals' with Canterbury described as "top of the pops" among English cathedral cities, by the Lonely Planet authors.

It adds: "Non-believers may find themselves converted inside the extraordinary early-Gothic cathedral, filled with enthralling stories, striking architecture and a real and enduring sense of spirituality."

Further west in the county and



THE BEST: Canterbury Cathedral

the authors found Sissinghurst Castle Garden, in Cranbrook.

Admiring the "intimate spaces" and character, the guide heaps praise on the gardens and restaurant too: "The place is crammed with romantic features; an orchard, a rose garden, a nuttery, a moat."

Earlier this year, Lonely Planet gave a no-holds-barred description of Dover, calling it "down in the dumps". Tourism body Visit Kent defended the town, stating that most seaside towns in the UK had fallen on hard times.

Focusing on the positives of the guide, chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said the coverage would help attract new visitors.

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News

CHARITY

Amputee on 40km a day bike ride with 'wounded warriors'

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER soldier who lost his leg while serving in Rwanda is taking to the saddle with other injured servicemen in a gruelling bike ride to help the nation's "wounded warriors".

Rob Copsey, from Dover, is currently riding side by side with injured soldiers from Britain and America in the inaugural Soldier Ride UK, where amputees and visually impaired – including one blind ex-serviceman – are tackling 40km a day in France and England.

Starting out last Sunday, the tough challenge – organised by ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The Wounded Warrior Project and The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) – was expected to last a week, with visits to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Windsor Castle, and the D-Day landing beaches in France.

Mr Copsey, 40, who lost his right leg below the knee when he stepped on a landmin while serving in Rwanda during the genocide of 1994, spoke to KoS on the second day of the challenge.

"It's going well so far; the camaraderie between the soldiers is great and it's a good networking exercise where you can meet others with injuries and find out how they get on in life," he said.

"I have a prosthetic limb and so I use a standard mountain bike and just adjust my limb, but there are others who have lost limbs who have specially adjusted bikes while some have hand bikes where



FIGHTING FIT: Participants of Soldier Ride UK

they use their arms rather than their legs."

Many of the ex-soldiers taking part sustained blast injuries from improvised explosive devices on recent operations in Afghanistan.

In May, President Barack Obama officially started the US Soldier Ride, noting it would give "wounded warriors the confidence and support they need to recover".

Members of BLESMA, including Mr Copsey, volunteered to join the group for the first-ever UK event.

Mr Copsey was one of four finalists hoping to take part in the first unaided trek to the North Pole earlier this year involving Prince Harry, but unfortunately missed out in the final stages.

■ See www.yourdover.co.uk for all the latest news and sport headlines.

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AVIATION

Public reject 'Boris Island' in UK survey

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

BORIS Johnson's controversial plans for a floating airport in the Thames Estuary have been rejected by the public in a national survey commissioned by Medway Council.

More than three-quarters of 1,000 respondents said they did not believe an airport was needed off the north Kent coast, with 87 per cent stating that existing capacity, such as that at Manston in Thanet, should be used instead.

The ICM poll for Medway Council gathered public opinion on the London mayor's hopes of building a £70 billion airport on a man-made island in the Thames Estuary – dubbed Boris Island – to increase capacity in the South East.

The survey revealed widespread public opposition with almost nine out of 10 people instead backing the Government's current 'better not bigger' aviation policy, and 81 per cent arguing that £70bn was too much to spend on a new airport.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers, said: "It is a proposal that has already been dismissed by the airline industry and by the Government and this poll makes clear that no-one at all sees it as a serious option."

"Boris needs to listen to public opinion, admit it is a pie in the sky idea and drop it for good."

Since unveiling his plan three years ago, Mr Johnson has published two reports into the feasibility and need for a Thames Estuary airport. The findings of a further study are due imminently.

A spokesman for Mr Johnson said if the City was to retain its position as the "heartbeat of global business" then a new hub airport was an "absolute necessity".

"There is no question a serious aviation bottleneck is emerging in London and the South East that has the potential to strangle our national economy," he said. "Several sites have been publicised as possible locations for a new hub airport, but the mayor's priority at this stage is to ensure government gives acknowledgement to the need for greater aviation capacity in the South East."

■ See www.yourmedway.co.uk for news.



PIE IN THE SKY: London's mayor Boris Johnson

HEALTH

Vulnerable warned to get your flu jab now

PEOPLE at risk of complications from flu have been urged to get their flu jab early.

Pregnant women, everyone aged over six months with serious health conditions, and people over 65 are being urged by the NHS to get themselves vaccinated in the next few weeks.

Flu clinics are already up and running at some GP practices in Kent. This year's jab protects against swine flu and two other strains.

CHARITY

Hospice's £750,000 anniversary appeal

A Kent charity has marked its 20th anniversary of helping terminally ill children and adults in Romania by launching an appeal to raise £750,000 to build two new hospices.

Hospices of Hope, based at Otford, has shops in Ashford, Maidstone, Rochester, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. It has trained more than 12,000 doctors and nurses in Romania, Serbia, Albania and Moldova. See www.hospicesofhope.co.uk.

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NEW ANGLE: The modern setting of the Sunley Gallery, with the backdrop of yellow lines framing a circular window to the sea as part of Daniel Buren's work *Borrowing and Multiplying the Landscape*, offers a remarkable new way of looking at this iconic statue from another era

ART

Contemporary unveiling for Rodin's historic kiss

By Ed Hill

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ONE of the art world's most iconic works came to the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate this week.

The Kiss by Auguste Rodin will be on display in the Sunley Gallery until September next year.

The sculpture, carved between 1901-04, is actually one of three made by the French artist in his lifetime.

It was commissioned by a wealthy American collector, Edward Perry Warren, who lived in Lewes, East Sussex. He could not purchase the original at the time because it was owned by the French government.

In 1914 the sculpture was loaned to Lewes Town Council and in 1955 it was purchased by the Tate Gallery for the nation. At the time the public fund raised amounted to £7,500.

Victoria Pomery, director of the Turner Contemporary Gallery said: "I have always been fascinated by this particular sculpture, having first seen it as a teenager.

"It is a key work. It has become one of those iconic images and it is very important for it to be part of our diverse programme here."

The sculpture has been placed in front of a work by French artist Daniel Buren framed by a backdrop of yellow lines, mirrors and the sea.

Ms Pomery said: "Taken out of the context of

London or Paris it looks very different here with the backdrop of the sea.

"This means we are looking freshly at a work that we all think we know well."

The Kiss was voted the public's favourite artwork in a poll in 2003.

It features the adulterous lovers Paolo Maletesta and Francesca da Rimini from Dante's *Inferno*. The couple develop affection for each other while reading the story of Lancelot and Guinevere. They are then killed by Francesca's jealous husband when he discovers them.

This is only the third time the work has been lent to a gallery outside London by the Tate.

Turner Contemporary is part of group of 18 galleries called Tate Plus. The members work together on exhibition and business planning.

Ms Pomery said: "This means we will get loans from the Tate on a regular basis. That includes some of our works which are currently on display as part of our second exhibition, *Nothing in the World but Youth*."

The life-sized statue has attracted controversy down the years. When it was on display in Lewes Town Hall in 1914 a headmistress successfully campaigned to have it draped with a cloth so it did not excite young soldiers billeted there.

Ms Pomery said: "In its time this work was incredibly challenging to society. It provoked a lot of criticism about the eroticism and the subject matter. We may not be so worried about those



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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



sorts of things now but Rodin was like Turner – they were both challenging the art establishment of their time.”

The Sunley Gallery where the sculpture has been placed has been created so larger pieces of work can be shown.

Since it opened in April the Turner Gallery has had more than 250,000 visitors.

Ms Pomery said: “This sculpture will help to drive forward the very exciting programme we have going into 2012. Many of those 250,000 visitors are new to the area so we are already seeing the effect we are having in the town.

“It is important we have iconic works like this here. We are a major national gallery after all.” ■ See www.yourthanet.co.uk for more news.

TO INFINITY: Mirrors on either side of Daniel Buren’s work reflect modern reproductions of The Kiss, emphasising its new place in the modern world

LIVE EXPORTS Anger as protestors hijack arrival of The Kiss to stage exports demo

COUNCIL chiefs in Thanet have slammed a demonstration opposing live animal exports, outside the Turner Contemporary on Tuesday as it unveiled Rodin’s The Kiss.

Protestors wanted to highlight concerns about live exports coming through the port of Ramsgate.

But Thanet District Council leader Cllr Bob Bayford said: “The council is concerned by the opportunistic protest and the impact it may have both on Turner Contemporary and businesses in the area.

“The fees charged for live animal exports are set to cover the costs incurred by the council. Our opposition to live exports has been made clear from the start. We are not happy about it and would prefer not to see Ramsgate being used for this purpose – we have no option but to remain strictly within the law.”

The Kent Action against Live Ex-



ports protest featured banners and a pantomime cow in a cage, mooring distressingly at passers by.

In a statement the group said: “We are here to demonstrate our opposition to the export of live animals through Ramsgate Port. In particular we oppose Thanet council who run the port and who, despite claiming they oppose this evil trade continue to profit from it.”

There have also been calls this week from the RSPCA to end the live animal trade.

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HEALTH CARE

Care home firm 'not like Southern Cross'

A CARE home operator responsible for almost 60 homes previously owned by health care provider Southern Cross has angrily denied accusations it too is in financial trouble.

Four Seasons Health Care, which runs five homes in Kent, says the GMB union is "substantially wrong" in claiming the firm is on the brink of collapse, and has blasted bosses for their "misleading and irresponsible" statement.

The GMB had warned residents taxpayers' money would have to be used to pay for their care in future because Four Seasons has debts of £750m and only £350m of assets. It claimed that as a result the company could be about to follow Southern Cross into administration.

However, Four Seasons says the £350m figure is a net asset which shows what remains after debts have been accounted for.

A spokesman said: "This could cause undue concern to residents and their families. Four Seasons is trading profitably with earnings of about £100m before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

"We own more than half of the facilities we operate and are therefore not so critically exposed to rents as Southern Cross was."

Southern Cross is currently in the process of offloading all 750 care homes in its portfolio following its financial collapse, with 57 being taken over by Four Seasons, including Copper Beeches in Rochester. The company also runs Ashurst Park in Fordcombe, near Tunbridge Wells; Beechcare in Darenth, near Dartford; Birkin Lodge in Tunbridge Wells; and Sutton Valence Care Home near Maidstone.

RECYCLING

Cameron's Big Society 'all talk', says founder of community service

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE founder of a cash-strapped community recycling firm has criticised the Government's Big Society initiative after his pleas for help were ignored.

Mark Wyatt, of Folkestone-based Kent Community Recycling, admits the not-for-profit organisation may go bust by the end of the month after losing 80 per cent of the funding it receives from Kent County Council.

A petition in support of the company has been signed by almost 1,000 people so far, but Mr Wyatt says Prime Minister David Cameron, his deputy Nick Clegg and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles have all shown their true colours by failing to reply to his letters.

"The so-called Big Society is a bit of a sore point as far as I'm concerned," he said.

"I don't really like talking about it because I'm not a comedian.

"What's hurtful is that apart from (Folkestone and Hythe MP) Damian Collins, no other politicians have shown any interest in helping us.

"The public have always been fully behind the initiative, otherwise we wouldn't have kept go-

ing, but the politicians are not involving with us.

"The Big Society is all talk really. What the Government doesn't realise is community groups like us have been around doing good work for years.

"We just don't blather on about it."

Established in 1989, Kent Community Recycling educates people about the true value of the materials they purchase and to pump any surplus cash it makes from recycling into community projects and local charities.

The organisation, which recycles one million kilos of unwanted goods per year, runs its own 'resource recovery plant' in Hawkinge and had originally hoped to expand into Sevenoaks and Sarre, near Canterbury, before the financial troubles hit.

Mr Wyatt said KCC cut the majority of its funding – worth about £110,000 a year – after an audit found the firm was unwittingly going against Government rules which forbid the inclusion of materials sourced from educational establishments.

"If we were profit-making and suddenly lost such a large percentage of our income, we would have seen the position as terminal and closed down," he said.




HARD HIT: Kent Community Recycling may close

"But as a civic amenity we have avoided it because we are told constantly by those for whom we work that they need us.

"During the last 12 months we have worked hard to recover from the massive drop in income and have done very well, but we still have a shortfall in our cash flow and need help.

"We have some irons in the fire which give us hope for the future, but should they not commit to supporting us by October 28, then we will sadly have no option but to close down."

■ Visit www.kentcommunityrecycling.org.uk or call 01303 893772 for more information.


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COMPETITION

Win family tickets to the Leeds Castle fireworks



THIS fireworks night, Leeds Castle is the perfect setting to watch a magnificent display set to music and also enjoy a variety of entertainment in the grounds.

Bring the family on November 5-6 to watch spectacular fireworks set to space-themed music, which will include well known theme tunes from film and television.

New this year, the Leeds Castle fireworks will be let off from floating pontoons on the moat and create beautiful reflections in the water surrounding the historic castle.

Before the display, there will be an open-air screening of a space-themed film to entertain children, along with face-painting and fair-ground rides.

And jazz singer Adam Chandler and his band will provide entertainment for the adults.

For the more adventurous, there will be the opportunity to try zorbing in inflatable spheres. Gates open at 2pm, with last admission at 5pm and fireworks start at approximately 5.30pm.

Supported by Heart FM, the Leeds Castle Fireworks Spectacular is the perfect backdrop

to your fireworks night. Tickets are £18 for adults, £10 for children under 16 and under 4s go free if reserved at the time of booking. Group rates are available for 15 people or more priced at £15 for adults and £9 for children.

All tickets must be booked in advance online at leeds-castle.com/events or by calling the Leeds Castle Box Office on 01622 880008. A booking fee of £2.50 per transaction applies to all orders. Key to the



SPECTACULAR: Fireworks at Leeds Castle are a truly spectacular sight to see

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MARINE

Offshore wind farms could be helping sea creatures to thrive

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MARINE researchers have uncovered new evidence suggesting offshore wind farms could have a positive impact on species living beneath the waves.

It follows years of uncertainty over the effect construction and operation could have on sea species and seabird sanctuaries, where noise and disturbance from construction and operation were believed to have a negative impact.

But research by the Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies found that offshore wind farms could act as a new type of habitat for species.

Professor Han Lindeboom said studies on a wind farm off the Dutch North Sea coast showed fish communities were thriving around wind turbines.

"Only minor effects upon fish

assemblages, especially near the monopiles, have been observed. Some fish species, such as cod, seem to find shelter inside the farm," he said.

"The wind farm acts as a new type of habitat with a higher biodiversity of benthic organisms (which live near the seabed), a possibly increased use of the area by fish, marine mammals and some bird species, and a decreased use by several other bird species."

Kent has two offshore wind farms, one off the coast of Thanet comprising of 100 turbines – currently the biggest in the world – and the Kentish Flats, a 30-turbine farm off the coast of Herne Bay.

Construction is currently underway on the London Array in the Outer Thames Estuary, which will boast 341 turbines when completed in 2012, becoming the world's biggest

and generating enough electricity for 480,000 homes in Kent.

Previous research carried out on the impact of the farms on marine life had suggested noise caused by pile-driving had a negative effect on sea species.

Other studies revealed concerns over changes to feeding patterns as the turbines became artificial reefs and changes to prey occurred, and the potential stress caused to sea mammals from changes in noise and vibrations.

The Marine Conservation Society said that although it supported offshore wind energy, development sites must be chosen carefully.

A spokesman said: "Developments must be sensitively located, where their potential impacts on marine life, natural physical processes, seascape and other users of the sea are minimised from the outset."



MAN-MADE REEF: Thanet currently boasts the world's biggest offshore farm, which could be good news for the area's marine life according to the latest evidence

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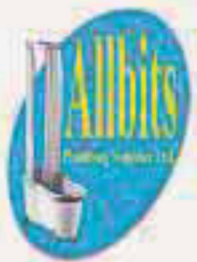
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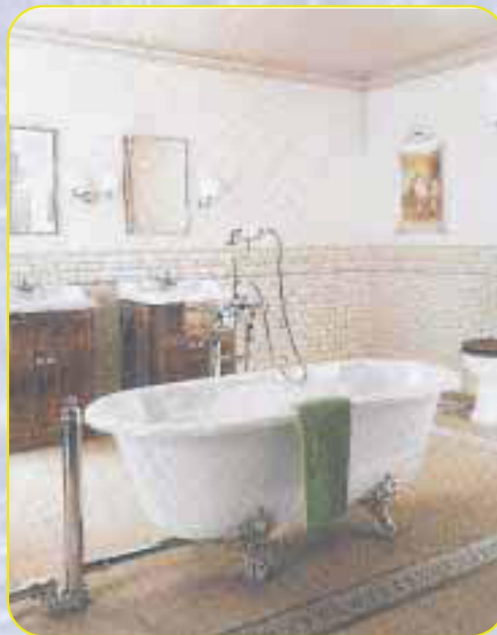
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EDUCATION

Kate was former pupil of history-making Kent head

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE Duchess of Cambridge's former classics teacher has become the first female head in a Kent school's 262-year history.

Louise Moelwyn-Hughes, 40, taught the former Kate Middleton when the newest addition to the Royal family was just a teenager studying for her GCSEs at Marlborough College in Wiltshire.

But the new head of Canterbury's St Edmund's School, who was also Princess Eugenie's housemistress, had to make do with watching her most famous ex-pupil tie the knot on television like everyone else.

"They were both fabulous, very down-to-earth girls," said Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes.

"They were very lovely and bright, and I got on with them in the same way I got on with all my pupils.

"It never crossed my mind that one day Catherine would marry into royalty, which isn't to say I didn't think she was cut out for it. She was just a very straightforward girl getting on with her everyday school life.

"It was a bit strange watching someone I had taught get married on live television, but it was a wonderful day and I was obviously very happy for her."

A member of the exclusive Headmasters and Headmistress' Conference, St Edmund's School is an independent mixed day and boarding school for pupils aged three to 18.

About 18 per cent of the 200 girls and 350 boys at the school are boarders, with the remainder almost a 50-50 split of boys and girls.

"Sometimes parents stick to the stereotype that all boys misbehave and all girls are very studious, so a lot of parents would prefer to send their daughters to girl-only schools," said Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes.

"Therefore you tend to find the majority of pupils at mixed schools are boys. But that's not the case at St

Edmund's, which reflects the real world and makes for a very well-balanced atmosphere."

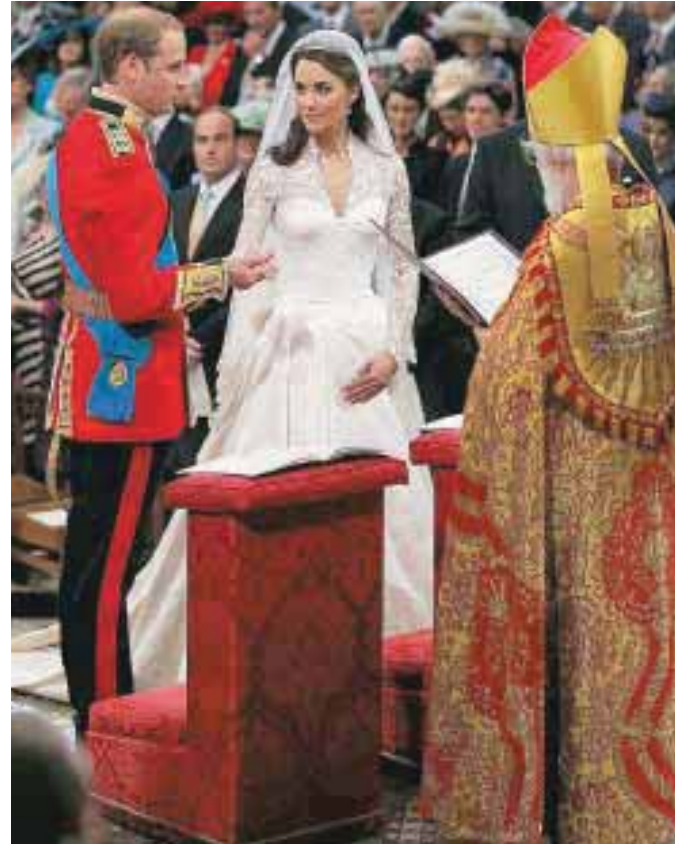
Before becoming the school's first-ever female headteacher, Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes was also the first female deputy head in Marlborough College's almost 400-year history.

"It's a real privilege, but in this day and age you just accept it and get on with the job," she said.

"But the governors made it clear I earned the job on merit and that they weren't looking to break any barriers. They wanted the right person.

"I hope to bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the role. I respect the history and tradition of St Edmund's and the school is well-known for its achievements in music and drama, but I'm keen to promote the academic aspects further."

■ For more news and sport see www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.



HAPPY DAY: Mrs Moelwyn-Hughes (left) watched former pupil Kate Middleton on TV

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News

BUSINESS

Welcome for 'credit easing' cash loans to county's small firms

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES across the county have broadly welcomed news of a multi-billion pound programme designed to avoid a new credit crunch, announced by Chancellor George Osborne.

The new mechanism of 'credit easing' was unveiled at the Conservative Party conference amidst worries that bank lending could seize up in the wake of fears over the Eurozone.

Mr Osborne has put forward some previously untried means to attempt to get the economy moving.

Credit easing could see tens of billions of pounds made available to small and medium enterprises as they would be able to bypass the banks when it comes to loans.

Andrew Alves, development manager of the Kent and Medway Federation of Small Businesses said: "The credit easing measure could be a significant development that would open up a new finance stream to viable businesses.

"The FSB hope this scheme will be run through an arm's length organisation that has the procedures and processes already set up, such as UKFI (UK Financial Investments Ltd, a Government economic management body), so it can be implemented as soon as possible.

"With 30 per cent of businesses believing they missed their growth opportunity in the last year as a result of not getting finance from their bank, we look forward to working with Government to ensure it can benefit the very smallest of businesses that want to invest and grow."

The funding for credit easing will come from the Treasury, but details on how the scheme will operate are still at an early stage. It is most likely that small

Business Week Live



TRYING TO HELP:

Chancellor George Osborne has announced a credit easing scheme to enable small businesses to borrow money without having to battle with high street banks

business loans will be packaged together and guaranteed by the Government. These packaged securities could then be sold in the bond markets – similar to the corporate bond structure in place in the USA.

Experts believe the Bank of England will be tasked with running the programme – which is a way for the Treasury to inject credit more directly into small businesses, without relying on the banks.

By circumventing the banks, it's hoped rates of interest charged on loans will fall significantly, and better reflect the current rock-bottom Bank of England base rate.

Mr Alves also added a note of caution to his optimism.

"The Chancellor announced some welcome measures to help small businesses," he said.

"However, it is difficult to regard the Conservative Party as the party of small businesses only days after it introduced a raft of new and costly employment regulations which will hinder small firms' growth plans and burden them with yet more red tape.

"The FSB welcome steps to help inject money into small firms, but need to see more detail so look forward to working with the Government on this."

■ To find out more about how credit easing may be able to benefit your company, book your free place at Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live exhibition and conference on October 26 at Dover Cruise Centre. See the website at www.businessweeklive.co.uk for more information.



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COMPETITION

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HIGH School Rocks! is a high energy, foot stomping, totally interactive production featuring all the very best hits from High School Musical 1, 2, and 3, Hannah Montana, Camp Rock, and Glee.

The High School Musical phenomenon, together with Miley Cyrus from Hannah Montana – The Movie, the hugely successful film Camp Rock with The Jonas Brothers and the Glee Club, are all paid tribute to in this amazing show coming to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday, October 30, at 2.30pm.

Join the superb cast for a rollercoaster ride of fun, as they invite you to the ultimate party to celebrate all of these awesome teen sensations in one fantastic concert.

Don't forget your dancing shoes and be prepared to rock out as High School Rocks! arrives.

Two winners will each get a family ticket (for four people), and to be in with a chance of winning just answer this question:

On October 30, 2011, where will the show for High School Rocks! be held?

A - Canterbury

B - Tunbridge Wells

C - Maidstone

To enter, text SCHOOL (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates.

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But if you don't win, don't worry you can still buy tickets from the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or go to the website at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk for more details.



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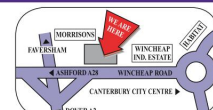
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News

ECONOMY

Campaigners keep up the pressure for a fuel duty cut

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

WIDESPREAD fury over extortionate petrol prices could force a debate in Parliament, sparking hope for a reduction in fuel duty.

More than 100,000 people have signed an e-petition on a new Government website to demand that planned fuel duty increases are scrapped and a mechanism introduced to stabilise prices at the pumps.

The petition was created by Harlow MP Robert Halfon as part of the Fair Fuel UK campaign, which was founded by Folkestone resident and campaigner Peter Carroll.

It was the third e-petition to receive 100,000 signatures – the amount needed to force a Parliamentary debate – since the new website was set up by Government in July.

A bid for a debate on the fuel issue will be officially put forward next week.

But while protesters celebrated the landmark achieve-



CAMPAIGNING: Peter Carroll

ment, they stressed the need to keep pressure on the Government and called on Kent to lend support to the movement.

Mr Carroll urged people to also sign-up to the 140,000-strong Fair Fuel UK petition, which is being led by himself and former Top Gear presenter Quentin Willson.

"One thing I'm confident about is that the Government won't listen unless the number of people involved is gargantuan," said Mr Carroll.

"In an economy that's not growing and inflation that's rising, this is the magic key. Reducing fuel duty will give people more money. It would be the medicine for the economy."

"But it's a bigger issue than just home costs; carers can't afford to get out and see patients; small businesses are laying people off; I've seen friends in the haulage industry go bankrupt."

The fuel duty petition is being backed by some leading economists who believe it could be the key to helping the economy.

Phil Thornton, of Clarity Economics, said: "Cutting fuel duty offers an easy to implement and fast acting way of providing that boost to growth."

Mr Carroll added: "I want to see signatures double or treble that 140,000 number in the next few weeks."

"People need to wake up and see that this is a serious issue."

■ **To sign the petition go to** www.fairfueluk.com/index.html.

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourshepway.co.uk.

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THE WEDDING SHOW

Win a dream honeymoon when you attend the fantastic Wedding Show

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Wedding Show which takes place at Leeds Castle next weekend, October 15-16, will truly be something to behold – and just the thing for a couple planning their big day.

Everything a bride and groom could ever want will be on display to ensure they can choose the dream dress, accessories and services which will provide a lifetime of amazing memories.

And there will be a selection of wonderful prizes to be won – including dream honeymoons – in a range of free to enter draws.

The event organised by Archant KOS Media offers four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture ladies' fashions, lingerie and men's attire.

These displays, held in a luxurious grand marquee in the beautiful grounds of the ancient stately home, are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed by the team at Catwalkers who specialise in creating the "wow factor".

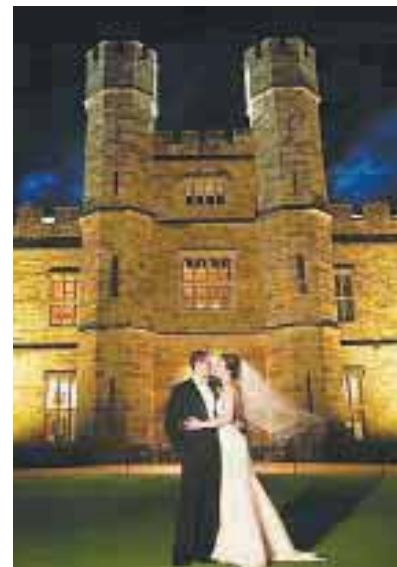
They will give visitors the opportunity to view the latest creations and meet with experts afterwards who will help choose the perfect outfit.

Leeds Castle – known as Castle of Queens: Queen of Castles – for its royal connections has also attracted the accolade 'the loveliest castle in the world'.

It is one of the most romantic buildings in Britain and the ideal place to showcase a dream wedding as swans glide on the moat, peacocks wander thorough the grounds and hot air balloons rise spectacularly over the stunning historic battlements.

Claire Sweeney, star of stage and screen, will be hosting the event.

She said: "I am delighted to be hosting The Wedding Show at Leeds Castle and look forward to



Picture: ALFE & TRISH PHOTOGRAPHY

DREAM HONEYMOON: Among the prizes to be won at The Wedding Show at Leeds Castle, pictured left, are a honeymoon in Mauritius and a stay in South Africa which comes with an elephant walk.

meeting you there."

The event will feature 120 stands offering everything a bride and groom need for their big day.

Prizes to be won include a honeymoon with Isibindi African lodges and Safari Sun staying at the Rhino Post Safari Lodge in South Africa's Kruger National Park and on the coast at Thonga Beach Lodge. A special feature will be a walking elephant safari for the winners.

There is also another romantic holiday to be won on the paradise playground of Mauritius, along with gym membership for a couple and their families, jewellery, suit hire, home protection and handmade stationery.

For the grooms there is a charity draw with the prize the chance to drive to their wedding in the famous DeLorean time travelling car – fresh from Hollywood where it was used to mark the 25th anniversary of the movie in which it starred, Back to the Future.

Entertainments at this most romantic of venues include harpists, a singer and band, a charity casino and for refreshment there is a Champagne bar along with the usual facilities.

■ See www.weddinglink.co.uk for details and to book tickets.



SPECIAL DAY: Claire Sweeney hosts the show, where grooms-to-be will be in with a chance of winning the iconic DeLorean as their wedding car

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EXHIBITION

STRIKING: Five artists have come together to create the Red List exhibition which will be on display at the Sidney Cooper Gallery in Canterbury

Artists go back to nature to get endangered message across

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

EYE-CATCHING images depicting man's relationship with the endangered world have gone on display in Canterbury.

The Red List exhibition, which runs at the Sidney Cooper Gallery until November 12, features the work of five artists including Ramsgate sculptor Stephen Melton and Margate

"dust artist" Paul Hazelton.

Among the works on display are Mr Melton's Bee Museum, which represents the disappearance of bees from around the world, and The Thornback Ray which highlights the issue of endangered fish being caught in local seas.

Sidney Cooper Gallery curator Hazel Stone said: "The Red List brings together five inspirational artists to create an exhibition which explores issues of invasion, extinction, threat and

ownership of nature.

"We hope the artists' works will help inspire people to be considerate towards nature and more attentive to the impact humans can have on their environment and the animals within it."

A series of six prints from American photographer Richard Barnes' Animal Logic series are also on display at the exhibition, as well as two from Neeta Madahar's Suste-

nance collection.

Meanwhile, a film entitled Old Bird by Ben Rowley is also on display and observes a bird close to the end of its life in what has been described as a "moving and powerful" piece.

The artwork is accompanied by panels displaying research text from the Ecology Research Group at Canterbury Christ Church University's department of geography and life sciences.

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CRIME

Rape victim just five when 11 years of abuse by 'sex predator' started

A PAEDOPHILE who raped and abused two children for more than a decade has been jailed for 13 years.

Lee Hewitt, 31, of Canada Road, Erith, was found guilty of nine of the 11 offences put before Maidstone Crown Court, including rape, indecent assault, indecency with a child, and sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13.

During the two-and-a-half week trial, the jury heard how Hewitt regularly sexually abused two girls – one of whom was just five when the offences started – between 1993 and 2004.

Judge Philip Statman said: "This court saw both females give evidence and speak of what you had done to them in an extremely brave manner.

"One of these girls stated she had felt dirty and used."

Hewitt was found guilty of four counts of indecently assaulting a child, one count of indecency with a child, three counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a child under



PREDATOR: Hewitt was jailed

the age of 13, and one count of rape.

A 10-year sexual prevention order was issued by the judge, and Hewitt will also be required to be on the sex offenders' register for life.

Det Con Anne-Marie McAteer, who carried out the investigation, said: "We welcome the significant sentence that has been handed down and which finally brings

this sexual predator to justice.

"Hewitt preyed on these children for more than a decade, repeatedly and regularly sexually abusing them without a thought for the harm and suffering he was causing.

"The success of this investigation would not have been possible without the sheer bravery of the victims and they should be commended for their courage in coming forward to report these crimes.

"Without their courage, this case would never have come to court.

"I hope the sentence imposed today will allow the victims to continue to rebuild their lives, safe in the knowledge that this man will remain in prison for some time.

"I also hope this sentencing will give past and present victims of these types of offences the confidence to come forward to report these crimes, knowing that those responsible will be brought to justice."

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OPINION

Keeping the spirit of Britain alive

Having a credible plan to get the county through the current economic problems is vital, says **Michael Fallon**, Kent MP and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party

THIS week's Conservative Party conference was obviously dominated by the economy.

Abroad, the crisis in the Eurozone gets worse and showed what happens when governments run out of money.

At home, there was strong support for the Coalition government's firm plan to sort out our public finances and get our economy growing again.

The Chancellor George Osborne emphasized that tackling our debts is essential for growth.

Having a credible plan to control public spending means interest rates will remain low, keeping families in homes, firms in business and people in jobs. But this is much more than good book-keeping; it provides a stable framework to promote economic growth.

Growth is a continuous agenda for this government. The Budget in the spring cut tax for business and cut red tape for small companies. In August,

the Chancellor announced new enterprise zones, including one in east Kent to help replace the jobs lost at Pfizer in Sandwich.

This week we heard about more support for science and manufacturing, neglected under Labour, more lending to small business, and measures to make employment easier.

Small firms in my constituency, for example, have long complained to me about employment tribunals; they are often afraid to take on more staff in case they have to pay to get rid of them or face expensive and time-consuming tribunals.

Now there will be a much longer qualifying period, and litigants will be charged a fee.

This isn't an attack on workers' rights – on the contrary, it will make it easier for companies to take on people who are currently locked out of the labour market.

There was no complacency in Manchester.

The huge deficit we inherited from Labour means we must maintain firm control of spending for many years to come.

We need to find jobs for thousands of young people who the last government failed to equip with the education and skills that modern employers need.

The benefit system needs radical overhaul to make it always more worthwhile to work rather than to claim. Public sector pensions need reform to become sustainable in the long-term.

Alongside these changes for the future there were announcements to give families practical help now.

Freezing the council tax for a second successive year from next April, for example, means one less bill that's going up.

Allowing social housing tenants to buy their homes helps them onto the housing ladder; the proceeds will go directly into building new housing, helping the construction industry.



6699

Freezing council tax for a second year means one less bill that's going up

Despite the crisis in Europe and the problems in banking, our conference ended on an optimistic note. Though there's a serious slowdown in the United States and across the Eurozone, the other half of the world economy is booming.

There are rapidly growing markets in China, India, the Far east and South America, all open for British goods and services.

There are huge opportunities for British companies.

Just before I went to Manchester, I visited a small firm in Sevenoaks that makes guitar strings. Rotosound sells them to 50 countries around the world, and business is booming. That's the spirit of Britain.

This week in Manchester showed a party and a government determined to foster it.

■ Michael Fallon is MP for Sevenoaks and also deputy chairman of the Conservative Party.

KOS COMMENT

Big Society needs to show us the money

PRIME Minister David Cameron may still be pushing the Big Society, but it is in danger of seeming to be all talk, especially in the case of Kent Community Recycling, which faces imminent closure due to funding cuts.

So, let's get this straight – Government is promoting Big Society, but taking away funding from community groups who have been carrying out Big Society work for years, leaving them to close down?

The Big Society may sound like a nice idea, but unless it supports community groups at grassroots it's just as much as pie in the sky as Boris Johnson's floating airport.

Dilley will always be a Kentish cricket star

KENT has been mourning the loss of home-grown cricket great Graham Dilley this week.

Tributes poured in reminiscing over his inspirational Ashes performance. He may have signed for Worcestershire all those years ago, but he will always be remembered as a great Kentish star.

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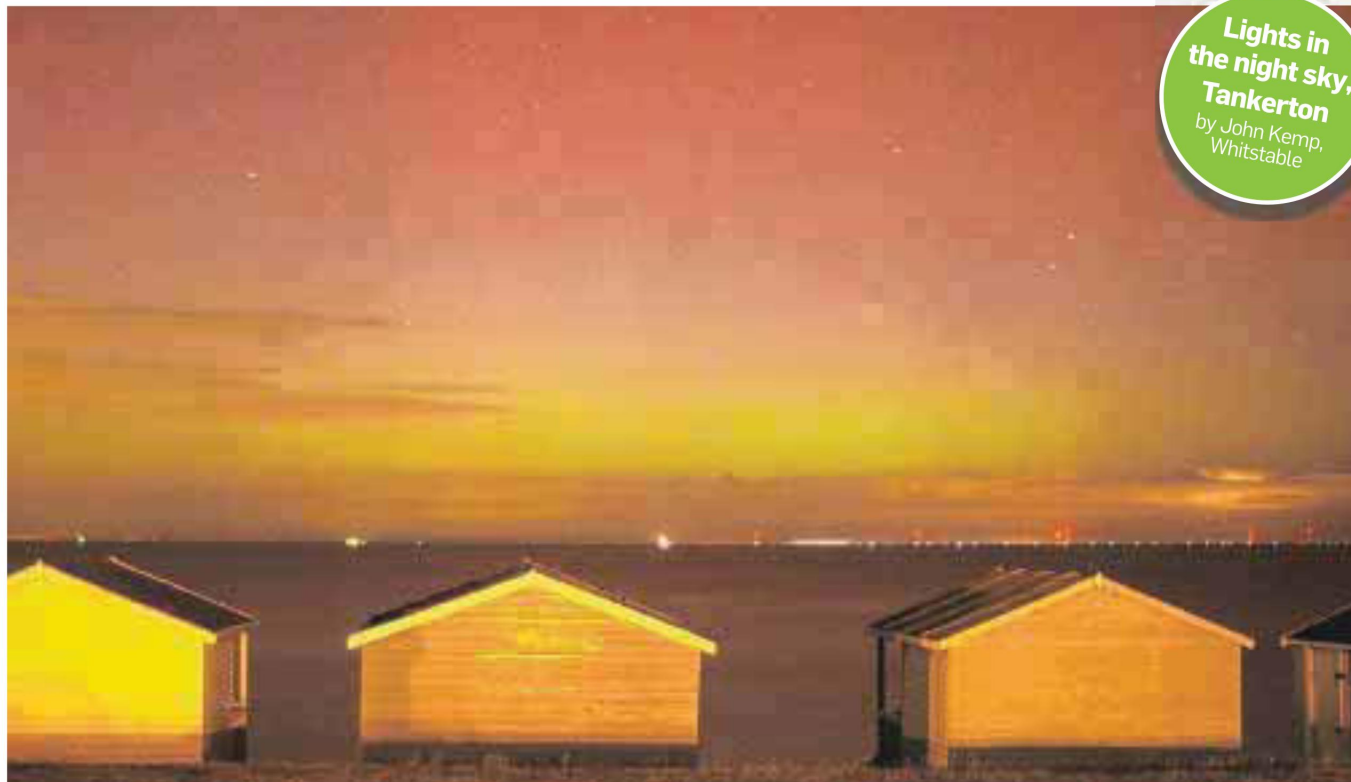
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Predators are ones to blame

LAST week's article regarding the sudden drop of wild bird species is probably due to the huge increase in predators.

Small birds such as willow tits are heavily preyed upon by members of the hawk family. Sparrowhawks will take up to three of these little birds daily, so it's not surprising they have suffered a drop in numbers.

Magpies and carrion crows also take huge numbers in the nesting season, together with grey squirrels. Ground-nesting birds like lapwings, grey partridge, and skylarks suffer greatly at the predations by foxes, stoats and badgers.

These natural predators have taken many years to gain the numbers they are, due to the reduction of the shooting estates where they were kept in balance by gamekeepers.

It would be interesting to check what the population of the wild birds was prior to the invention of the breech-loading shotgun, when the great sporting estates came to the fore and these so-called

pests were brought to the brink of extinction.

I am sure that in time things will balance out, but do not expect to see these birds recover to any great numbers any time soon.

In my opinion it has nothing to do with habitat as there are thousands of acres of unfarmed land on the mainly undisturbed motorway verges and rail lines all over the UK.

Ken Smith, Rainham

Too many on a small island

NIGEL Farrage was partly correct in blaming immigration as feeding demand for housing (KoS, September 25). Last year 241,000 people were granted settlement in the UK, which allows them to bring existing spouses, children and dependants into this country.

According to Home Office figures for 2009, 67 per cent of immigrants who come here on a marriage visa have never before set foot in this country. Also, one in three were living with family members or friends and not supporting themselves financially.

Britain's population rise is double the average of other EU countries, which is also underpinned by the much higher birth rate among immigrants.

This has nothing to do with racism, it is about land mass, we are a small island with a population of 60 million-plus and rising fast. When do we say no? Seventy million? Eighty million?

We are witnessing opposition to new housing estates, development pressure on land and congestion everywhere we go, unless we make real efforts to control our population, what sort of environmental inheritance are we going to pass onto our children?

**Terry Hudson
Herne Bay**

Cameron has ruined Tories

DAVID Cameron, in his pig-headed way, is slowly but surely destroying the Conservative Party. With his string of broken promises and deference to Nick Clegg he is, once again, proving he is the wrong choice as leader.

He is determined to ignore the very people who put him

in power and, as the polls keep showing, the other party of abject losers are well ahead of the Conservatives and that can only get worse with Mr Cameron in charge.

I see William Hague is the poll choice to step in and the sooner he does the better. We need a man of his proven stature to take control.

With four million people having to have food handouts now and Cameron sending billions out of our pockets to fund who knows what in other countries he is an absolute disgrace and his own party, if they want the backing of the people, should get rid of him and remind Nick Clegg just what his powers are.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Repeal Human Rights Act

IT has just been reported that several terrorists have been released and cannot be deported because of the Human Rights Act, this coupled with the many more absurd incidents where evil people are using this act to further their ends, must make every British

subject worry about safety.

Many people in Swale work or socialise in London, where most terrorist acts occur, that is why this is a local issue.

David Cameron promised to get rid of the Human Rights Act and because of commitment to the Lib Dems he has reneged, like he did on most of the things. Yet not one of the parties are bringing this question up at their annual conferences, why?

People like me have been warning about mass immigration and have been called racist, last week the Labour Party admitted their immigration policy was wrong and it had led to a drop in our living standards and loss of jobs for British workers. David Cameron and Nick Clegg both promised to drop immigration numbers but immigration has increased, why?

I am happy with our MP and council but this Coalition surpasses the last government for broken promises. Maybe it is about time they started worrying about the people of Sittingbourne then putting all their energies in saving the world and their reputations.

Martin Clarke, Sittingbourne

Big bad wolf after the pigs

THE new planning reform proposed by the Conservative Government on brownfield sites will still have to overcome local councillors, planning officers, and government inspectors who have as much planning expertise and foresight as the three little pigs had.

The developer being the big bad wolf.

Real democracy in planning will only come from reform of the planning application process, that is the real task.

I see nothing changing for the small developer or self-build owner as yet in the Government proposals to build where 'they' live, without neighbour objections.

In Kent we first have to run the gauntlet of planning officers, who are at most fixed by restraints of a personal bias on look, environmentally friendliness, or how it will fit into an area, without 'real' architectural knowledge.

That opinion shifts like the house of straw, it gets blown away by any wind of disapproval from the councillors or team officers who constantly contradict their colleagues.

You can go to appeal for a government inspector to decide, he/she will be drafted in (at huge expense) from outside, they will know nothing about the community and will make a decision (after about 30 minutes) based upon their perception about what is best.

This process is like a house of sticks, broken away by the inspector who simply charges through the process, in haste to return to his 'old' thatched home in the country.

You then have a right to appeal, but the Court of Appeal will simply return your appeal to the government inspector for them to look again at the application, they may or may not change their mind.

In the meantime the poor little pigs have no where to live and have been gobbled up by the big bad wolf, who goes into the countryside to look for little red riding hood (parish council) in a greenfield site.

Big bad wolf arms himself with a solicitor and QC, and trots off to make an appeal to the secretary of state based upon 'sustainability', the National Trust know what happens next.

Kenneth Little, Whitstable

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Law on renting and capital gains tax

Q FOR several years I rented out part of my home. I retired last year at the age of 70, and now the whole property is used only as my family home. I hope to remain here for as long as possible. However, when I do decide to sell, I am unclear about possible capital gains tax liability, so any advice would be appreciated.

A THE basic rule is that we are all allowed exemption from capital gains tax if we make a profit when we sell our main or only private residence. What complicates things a little is that for a number of years, part of your home has not been your residence. It has been rented out to provide a bit of income. Strictly speaking, this means that if you do sell your home at a profit, part of the gain will be taxable and part will be exempt. Working out the exact figures can be tricky. There may be an escape route though. There is a separate tax allowance called 'Letting Relief' that can be claimed by anyone who – like you – has rented out part of their own home. And this allowance might even wipe out your entire tax bill. You can claim the lowest of either £40,000, or the private residence exemption, or the amount of the gain that applies to the part of your home that was rented out. For example, let's suppose that you lived in three-quarters of the house and rented out the other quarter. And let's suppose that when you sell up, you make a profit of £100,000. You would be entitled to private residence exemption on three quarters of the gain. That leaves one quarter – £25,000 – to be taxed. And this would escape tax under the Letting Relief rule. On the other hand, suppose you made a profit of £200,000. Of this, £150,000 would be exempt, leaving £50,000. Letting Relief would be £40,000, leaving just £10,000 taxable. However, if you made no other gains in that year, this would escape tax as well, because a separate rule says we are allowed to make £10,600 of tax-free gains each year. Of course, the arithmetic would also be affected by the number of years the property was partly rented out, set against the time that you have been using it only as your private home, so keep records of the dates the house has been partly let.

Q THE Yorkshire Building Society is offering around 3pc on its decent savings accounts, but I have read that it is paying more than 7pc to its shareholders. How can this be fair?

A SAVERS and shareholders are very different. The biggest difference is that if you put anything up to £85,000 in a savings account, you are fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. In the unlikely event of serious problems at the Yorkshire, your money is safe. Shareholders, on the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



other hand, are not covered by the compensation scheme unless, perhaps, they can prove they were negligently advised by a stockbroker or financial adviser who has gone bust. The Yorkshire shares that yield more than 7pc are called Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (Pibs). They work like IOUs, except that they are traded on the stock market and the price rises or falls just like any other stock market investment. Yorkshire PIBs are at the safer end of the market. So are those from the Principality Building Society, that yield over 9pc. But do be aware the stock market is never totally risk free. Some PIBs investors with Northern Rock lost over a third of their investment when it collapsed.

Q Please could you explain how airport duty tax is worked out. I read that it costs a family of four £240 to fly to the USA. My wife and I flew there in June and it cost us £480.

A The official name for this tax is Air Passenger Duty, and the amount you pay is based on the distance you fly, and which class you travel. Destinations fall into four different bands, with short haul flights covering anything up to 2,000 miles, then each band rises by 2,000 miles until you reach the top band, for flights over 6,000 miles. Tax starts at £24 for the first band, then £120, then £150, and finally £170. These rates are halved if you travel economy class. If you travelled economy class to the USA, tax should be £120 per person. If you were charged more, the airline owes you an explanation.

Q PLEASE can you tell me whether the email I have received, awarding me US \$3million from Coca Cola, is safe – or is it junk?

A IT IS junk. The message says you won \$3m in a free draw sponsored by Coca Cola and held at the FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa. Well, that was in 2010, so why the delay. The truth is that there was no such free draw. You are asked to call a number in South Africa to claim your prize. If you do, you will be asked for ever increasing sums of money, supposedly for taxes and legal fees, but you will never see anything in return. **■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Many not planning well for old age

THE barrage of evidence that people are failing to plan adequately for their retirement continued this week with statistics showing how many people rejected the 'free money' offered to them through company pensions.

Around a quarter of people working for companies providing pensions simply don't take them up, mainly because they feel they cannot afford the payments. But it means they miss out completely on the company's contributions to their pension pot.

There is also a smaller, but troubling, problem of lack of awareness that schemes even exist or employees not even knowing whether or not they're enrolled.

Of those who don't join their company scheme, half say they can't afford to lose a chunk of their income; a quarter think retirement is too far away to worry about; and 22pc have made the decision to invest in something else.

But more than half of those who don't enroll believe the state pension

By Ed Foss

MyMoney 24 writer

won't be sufficient or available when they retire. The research was conducted by Zurich.

Simon Foster, the company's head of corporate pensions, said: "With the UK pensions gap currently estimated at £318 billion, people would not be able to afford to live comfortably in retirement without careful financial planning.

"It seems people don't understand the real benefits of having a workplace pension.

"Firstly it's a tax-efficient way of saving, and secondly it's a way of getting free money from your employer who, in most cases, puts money into the pension for you.

"The research shows that more than half of people don't believe that the state pension will be sufficient or available when they retire, yet nearly half of workers are still not taking advantage of their workplace pension."

Auto-enrolment, where people au-

tomatically join company schemes unless they choose to opt out, is due to come in next year.

Mr Foster added: "That will help to some extent. But people should place a high priority on saving for the future, to ensure they don't end up in poverty in retirement."

Karen Barrett, chief executive of unbiased.co.uk, said: "The current economic outlook is uncertain and there are some real financial concerns for consumers right now.

"The real issue though is the fact that people are still apathetic about their finances despite this.

"Savings and pension concerns aren't going to go away so it's important that people take control of their finances now and seek advice on the best way of saving for the future, to make sure they have that financial buffer in place for retirement.

"Worrying won't sort out your finances, but seeking professional advice from an independent financial adviser can and will help to reduce those concerns."

Unseasonably hot weekend causes the busiest day of year at cashpoints

THE recent end-of-summer warm weather has broken more than temperature records, prompting the busiest day of the year so far for withdrawals from a leading cash machine network.

The Link network reported that £577 million was taken out of its machines on September 30, the Friday before last weekend.

The volume of use was put down to people getting ready for the hot weekend.

John Howells, Link chief executive, said: "The good weather really seems to have encouraged people to withdraw cash in preparation for increased spending over an unusually sunny weekend.

"This is confirmation that the right combination of feel-good factors can boost short-term spending and that cash is a very popular way of paying for these kinds of goods and services."

The £577m withdrawn was the highest daily total since Christmas Eve 2010 and 14pc higher than the equivalent day in 2010.

Last Sunday was also very busy with £252m withdrawn, an 11pc increase on the same day in 2010.



QUICK MONEY: Use of cash machines boosted by the unexpectedly warm weather

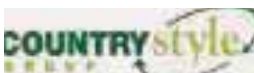


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Asset-based lending not used to its full advantage by UK's struggling SMEs

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE county's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are failing to take advantage of available funding despite a significant lending gap, which the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) estimates at £28 billion, says a report by Centric Commercial Finance.

It states that asset-based lending (ABL) including invoice discounting could lead to an increase between £531.6 million and £1.4bn to the UK's GDP by the end of 2012 by funding SME investment.

In the South East, it is estimated more than 105,000 businesses could qualify for this form of alternative finance.

The report suggests that, across the UK, as many as 650,000 firms are in sectors that can be considered suitable for commercial finance, a term that covers ABL including invoice discounting.

This type of finance allows companies to draw money against assets such as trade receivables, stock and machinery.

The 650,000 firms account for an estimated £8.8bn of the UK's SME lending gap.

However, the trade body for the ABL sector, the Asset Based Finance Association (ABFA) states that its members are servicing a small fraction of potential clients – just over 41,000 SMEs.

One local example shows what can be achieved, according to analysts involved in the report.

Centric recently structured a £4.5m deal for AEI Compounds Ltd, a leading manufacturer of polymer compounds and a global supplier to the wire and cable industry based in Sandwich.

With its principal markets in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa, a carefully-timed acquisition has resulted in the first global manufacturing and product development platform in this industry.

John Onslow, CEO and co-founder of Centric, said: "The last Credit Conditions Survey from the Bank of England showed an enormous disparity between

the demand for funding from small enterprises in particular, and what level of finance is realistically available to them.

"Our report shows a significant chunk of the SME population has not yet opted to use ABL, which might be suitable and could improve their situation if this option is explored.

"We recently took on a tractor-tyre-manufacturer that lost its bank's funding due to it being reclassified as an automotive supplier – a sector the bank had decided was a credit risk.

"After a seven-year relationship, the business was simply dismissed. This 'template' approach just doesn't make sense to us and it leaves many clients completely bewildered.

"ABL is well placed to respond to greater demand from SMEs, and while the banks remain cautious our industry will continue to do so."

Charles Davis, managing economist at the Cebr, said: "If ABL is going to fill the gap, more SMEs need to understand



WORDS OF WISDOM: John Onslow, of commercial finance company Centric

how this form of finance works and why it is a viable option.

"Awareness is a barrier, but our research clearly shows that alternative forms of finance have an important role to play in the economy.

"SMEs account for 51 per cent of the UK's economic output and 59 per cent of employment in the private sector – their financing needs are crucial to the UK's economic recovery."

LEGAL

Law firm expands its business into Kent

SOUTH East law firm Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP has announced the opening of a new office in Sevenoaks to add to its three in Sussex.

The company says the move will enable it to offer a greater range of services and a greater degree of specialisation to customers.

Bruce Hayter, managing partner, said: "We are broadening our network so we are better positioned to meet the needs of our clients across the South East. Having researched the market, and in response to the needs of our clients, we know we can deliver a more bespoke service by being based in the region."

Initially, the Sevenoaks office will concentrate on providing legal services to the company's private clients, focusing on wills, tax-planning, trusts, family law, conveyancing and court-of-protection work.

However, this will eventually be expanded on over time. The firm will look carefully at growing the office to cover other disciplines to enhance its offering to clients.

HEALTHCARE

Company gets smokefree award for helping staff to kick the habit

AXA PPP healthcare in Tunbridge Wells has become the first business to receive the Smokefree Kent Business Award.

The award, funded by Kent County Council in partnership with Kent Community Health NHS Trust's Stop Smoking service, recognises companies that have demonstrated their commitment to supporting staff who want to try to quit smoking.

In return, the company has been given a free financial assessment of what smoking could be costing its organisation and a review of its existing smoking policy with recommendations for improvement and fast-track

links to the stop smoking service.

The West Kent Stop Smoking Service has previously worked with AXA PPP healthcare and run a number of successful workplace programmes, delivered in-house. The programmes have had a success rate of 66 per cent, with a total of 39 employees quitting smoking as a result.

Spokesman Riley Elgar said: "By quitting smoking, these individuals will have made a significant improvement to their health and it is estimated that they have saved the company more than £8,000 per year if they continue not to smoke."

CONSULTANCY

Locate partners up to boost French market

INVESTMENT promotion agency Locate in Kent has boosted its French connection after joining forces with specialist consultancy O2S.

David Deslandes, director at O2S, will act on behalf of the agency from his base in France, identifying French businesses looking to expand into Kent to access the UK market.

Two French firms have recently expanded into the county, both taking up space at the Nucleus Business & Innovation Centre, Dartford.

Axun Onduleurs PV, a company that sells and distributes inverters and solar panels, and Paris-based electrical engineering consultancy Faseo opened their Kent offices this summer.

Sir Brandon Gough, chairman of Locate in Kent, said: "We are delighted to be working with O2S and David Deslandes. This partnership will ensure Kent's many business opportunities that were recognised by both Axun Onduleurs and Faseo are promoted to companies right across France. This will further increase our ability to draw foreign direct investment into the county."

ACCOUNTANCY



Great customer feedback puts firm in line for award

McBRIDES chartered accountants, based in Sidcup, have been short-listed for a national award reflecting excellence in practice management and client satisfaction in the field of accountancy.

The AccountingWEB Practice Excellence Awards allow accountancy firms to be benchmarked against their competitors and to be judged by three distinct groups: their clients, an expert panel and specialists in their profession. The awards are open to all UK accountants who feel their approach to client satisfaction and practice management are worthy of merit.

AccountingWEB quizzed hundreds of McBrides clients and, on the back of their answers, short-listed the practice among its final eight contenders in the mid-sized accountancy firm category.

Managing partner Nick Paterno, above, said: "We were hoping for positive feedback, but were never complacent. It is pleasing our clients are delighted enough with our work to have propelled us into the next round."

McBrides, which has been involved in the business community in Kent and south London for 35 years, now has to complete a detailed questionnaire for the next round of judging. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London in November.

SALES

Success recognised with award of new franchise

TC Motorhome & Caravan Centre, based in Herne Bay, has just been awarded a franchise by the Bristol-based Bailey Group to market its products.

The Kent company will soon be displaying a range of Bailey Motorhomes at the company's premises in Sweeneybridge Road, just outside Herne Bay.

The new products will be built using the Alu-Tech Construction system used in Bailey's existing range of touring caravans.

TC Motorhomes already has franchises such as Caravans-International, Swift, Eldiss and Globecar.

Tony Chamberlain, from the company, said: "I am pleased our success is being recognised by some of the biggest names in the industry."

"The success of the team in Herne Bay is in a large measure down to its collective focus on delivering customer satisfaction, along with quality products, whether new or used, and value for money."

'Open-market option' is a must for pension pots

By Nick Ames

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THE Government must move quickly to make it obligatory for pension firms to inform customers that they can shop around for the best deal when it comes to turning their pension pot into an annuity – the so-called 'income for life' – according to a financial expert

Ruth Dolan, a chartered financial planner with Canterbury law firm Furley Page, said: "In the past, insurers, who manage the majority of pension schemes, have not been obliged to tell their customers that they have an 'open-market option'. This is where customers can find the best-value provider for their lifetime income themselves, rather than taking a default option from their pension-provider."

"It is tragic to see people who have saved into a personal-pension scheme for years fail to make the most of their pension pot."

"It is difficult to believe, but most people will take the annuity offered by the pension-provider without further investigation."

Furley Page is urging the Government to introduce new rules to make pension firms inform customers that they can shop around for an annuity, and Dolan said she welcomed recent signs that regulators were moving in this direction.

One major insurance company has recently broken ranks with the rest of the industry to urge ministers to make changes to ensure that today's retirees get the best possible deals in the market.

The company, Aviva, has thrown its weight behind the open-market option, claiming that the typical person could boost their retirement income by between 10 and 20 per cent by shopping around.

According to Aviva, 385,000 people bought annuities last year, and only 32 per cent of these purchased annuities from a different company than the one they had saved with.

Dolan said: "You should not feel loyalty to your pension-provider unless you have shopped around and they are still offering you the very best annuity deal in the market which is right for your own personal circumstances."

Annuities involve using a pension pot to buy an income for life.

There are different types of annuity offering a



CHOICE: Most people will take the annuity offered by their pension-provider without shopping around

number of income options. The annuity-provider will need to assess what they are prepared to pay you in terms of income, and this is based on a number of factors including age, health and prevailing interest rates.

Dolan said: "Generally, the annuity figures provided by your pension-provider when you retire are standard rates for a person of your age and do not take into account your health or any of the various options that you may need. These rates are invariably uncompetitive."

"The first thing you should do when you receive one of these letters is to contact an independent financial adviser."

"They will be able to guide you through the options available with annuities and then look across the annuity industry for the best rate."

"A full health questionnaire should be completed to ensure that any quote is personalised for you and this could have positive results for your final pension. It is always interesting to see the difference between the final annuity and the original quote individuals receive from their pension-providers."

"Of course, you have to pay for the advice you receive, but even taking into account the fees, you should still receive a higher income than that initially quoted by your pension provider."



LEADING LIGHT: Kevin Kneebone named in global-director category

Kent director highly commended in final of IoD's international category

A KENT businessman has been highly commended in the 2011 Institute of Directors director-of-the-year awards, sponsored by Samsung Electronics.

Kevin Kneebone, managing director of Medway-based BACTEC, was named in the global-director-of-the-year category, supported by Conqueror, having previously won the award for director of the year for a business with a turnover of £5 million-£24.99 million in the IoD London and the South director-of-the-year awards.

With a background in engineering, Kneebone joined BACTEC International in 2003.

The company specialises in unexploded ordnance and landmine clearance around the world.

He has helped move BACTEC on from a typical owner-managed business to a more formal company run by a board of directors.

Mr Kneebone said: "I was delighted to have been nominated for the international director category and being the winner in the regional finals."

"While I am disappointed not to

win the national award, testament to the high quality of the other finalists, being highly commended is very satisfying and is a reflection not only of my personal success but that of BACTEC and the whole team."

Rodger Broad, director of the IoD for London and the South, said: "Kevin fully deserves his recognition in the national awards."

"He is one of many highly-talented and committed directors around the region who are working hard to drive their companies forward in difficult times."

Business hub creates perfect environment for firms to flourish

By Nick Ames

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THE Joiners Shop, a Basepoint-run business development in the Historic Dockyard Chatham, is celebrating a successful two years of operation – with all of its 44 units now occupied.

Following restoration, the 200-year-old, Grade II-listed building opened in March 2009 as a specialist centre for creative industries.

The centre is now home to 44 thriving creative businesses, ranging from graphic designers and specialist printers to a railway simulator company.

Basepoint Business Centres manages The Joiners Shop and attributes its success to the strong sense of community and creative flair which exists within it.

John Luchford, centre manager, said: "It's not surprising we have attracted so many creative businesses as the setting here provides a stimulating backdrop for these types of businesses.

"There has been plenty of demand for space and it is good to see so many

of our tenants doing extremely well."

One company prospering is Railsimulator.com, which employs 25 people and recently appeared in the top five downloaded computer games.

Railsimulator.com is the most realistic train and railway simulator on the market, allowing players to take the (virtual) controls of 13 historic and contemporary locomotives along eight lines in the UK, Europe and North America.

Paul Jackson, Railsimulator.com game producer, said: "Since we moved here two years ago, our company has expanded. As a result, we have needed larger premises on three occasions and the Basepoint team have been incredibly flexible in assisting us.

"As far as facilities and location are concerned, the centre fits all our requirements, providing the right environment for the creativity needed in our industry."

The Joiners Shop is set in the heart of the historic dockyard, providing 1,200 sq m of commercial accommodation, focusing on the needs of small and start-up businesses.



MOVING FORWARD: Paul Jackson, from Railsimulator.com, with John Luchford, centre manager for The Joiner Shop



TIGHT UNIT: Management from award-winning GML Construction

Regional prize shows construction company's building big reputation

KENT Megagrowth 50 company GML Construction has taken the Small and Medium Enterprises Award in the London and South East Constructing Excellence Awards 2011.

As a regional winner, the company will go forward to the National Constructing Excellence Awards, to take place on Friday, November 25.

Open to small to medium-sized construction companies employing 50 or fewer people, the judges were looking for signs of people development, adopting best practice and/or collaborative and new ways of working.

GML, based in Coxheath, has grown at an average of 20 per cent every year since 1991, going from a £300,000 turnover in its first year to £10 million in 2010, and has been recognised as one of the top 50 fastest-growing companies in Kent.

On behalf of Constructing Excellence, Derek Rees, chief executive of the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE), who managed the awards congratulated GML.

He said: "We all know the construction and built-environment sector depends on small to medium-sized companies for the successful delivery of every construction project. GML shows just how effective a smaller company can be in delivering enlightened leadership and real good practice.

"This is marvellous news for us and a wonderful reward for our team, which works incredibly hard in whatever they do," said Alan Proto, of GML Construction.

GML Construction specialises in the delivery of energy-efficient buildings.

Using a variety of build methods including brick-and-block, timber frame, steel frame and modular construction, the company works with clients to provide a solution that meets their precise requirements and budgets.

Working throughout the South East, the company has built relationships with many local authorities as well as commercial developers and clients, and works in sectors including education, health, leisure and commercial.

TRANSPORT

Nomination is just the ticket for bus company

A BUS company is celebrating being short-listed in a category of the 2011 UK Bus Awards.

Stagecoach East Kent is in the final line-up of the Marketing Excellence Awards for the Canterbury Triangle.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held at London's Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, November 29.

UK Bus Awards chairman John Owen said: "In these difficult and uncertain times we've been both surprised and delighted by the number and quality of entries for the 2011 UK Bus Awards.

"The combination of rising fuel prices and cuts in public spending are making life particularly difficult for everybody involved in bus-service provision at the moment.

"Even so, our judges were really impressed by the commitment to quality and innovation shown by bus-operators, local authorities and their partners in this, the awards' 16th year.

"More than five billion passenger journeys are made by bus every year, and the industry has a huge amount to offer in delivering reduced congestion and carbon emissions.

"The finalists in this year's awards are contributing hugely with their bright ideas and their commitment to customer service.

"They are paving the way for the future success of an industry which remains firmly at the heart of our national life."

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Turbine bosses in jobs promise

BUSINESS leaders from across Swale attended a meeting with the wind turbine manufacturer planning to open a huge new factory on the Isle of Sheppey.

The gathering at the Sheppey campus of Canterbury College included speeches by Vestas Wind Systems' chief project manager Lars Gjedsoe Eriksen, and Peel Ports' managing director Paul Kavanagh.

They explained that the proposed turbine blade factory could create 2,000 jobs and regenerate up to two-thirds of the Port of Sheerness.

Sheppey campus head Philip Wicker said: "It's potentially a huge shot in the arm for the local community. The Sheppey campus team would be dedicated to working in any way they can to support such a significant project."

"In the long term we hope development will increase the opportunity for use of the college, for those taking both apprenticeships and other studies. Employers can use the college facilities, work with the college team and develop new ideas with our stakeholders."

EU cash boost for rural employment

ACTION with Communities in Rural Kent has won European funding for a project which will help young people find work.

The Greener Futures for Young People scheme, which works with partners from Sweden, France and Spain, is one of only 10 to receive the cash from DG Employment.

A spokesman said: "This project speaks out for the role of the not-for-profit sector and shows how the social economy can provide effective local responses to national problems of social exclusion and unemployment."

"This is a 'David and Goliath' story which demonstrates the strength of partnerships. We will also be joined on October 19 by specialist workers from the Czech Republic, Romania and other parts of Europe which are also part of the Rural Kent network."

The project, which lasts for one year and will receive about £205,000 funding, will test new ways of working with excluded and disadvantaged young people across the county. It will be officially launched in Ashford on October 19.

Sustainability is key at new training base

By Steve Knight

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LOCAL businesses have been urged to take advantage of a new £6.9 million training and research centre for sustainable construction projects.

The SusCon building at The Bridge development in Dartford aims to capitalise on the Government's 'Green Deal', which will enable private firms to offer energy efficiency improvements to homes and properties at no upfront cost, and to recoup payments through a charge in instalments on the energy bill.

Subjects taught at the new centre include water conservation, bio-diversity, the supply chain and behaviour management. Its courses are also cross-disciplinary, meaning members of different building trades such as bricklayers and roofers can train together to encourage a sharing of ideas.

Dartford council leader Jeremy Kite, who attended the launch, said: "I'm absolutely delighted Dartford will play such an important part in the construction of ecologically sound and sustainable buildings."

"SusCon Dartford could become a centre for the very best practices in what will surely be the most important development in house-building we've ever seen. In a time of rising energy prices, the ability of people to minimise the cost of running their own homes has never been more important, and SusCon will lead the way in helping them to do this."

More than 100 people attended the launch of the building last week, which has been developed by a partnership led by Dartford council, North West Kent College and ProLogis. The development was made possible by funding from the Homes and Communities

Agency, the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) and the Skills Funding Agency via CITB-ConstructionSkills.

The partnership hopes to equip up to 2,500 professionals a year with the sustainable building skills required.

Brian Berry, director of external affairs at the Federation of Master Builders, added: "We are on the verge of a green revolution in terms of how we build, manage and value our buildings today."

"The Government's forthcoming Green Deal retrofit initiative has the potential to provide a much-needed boost to the construction industry because 26 million homes will need to be retrofitted by 2050, which amounts to 600,000 retrofits every year or about 5.5 every single minute."

"SusCon puts us on the road to recovery for the construction industry because green construction skills are the future."

Jamie White, head of the National Skills Academy for Construction and Commercial Strategy, added: "SusCon is a regional hub for the academy, allowing training at all levels to be delivered on a local basis."

"We ensure training focuses on delivering the skills required as a new way of working when they are needed, as well as providing training for people in the local community."

"We will help to ensure the right skills are in place so SMEs are ready for the Green Deal."



LAUNCH: CITB-ConstructionSkills marketing manager David Plummer at the launch

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Human rights head signs up as new visiting professor at Christ Church

THE chief executive of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been appointed a visiting professor in public administration at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The appointment recognises Mark Hammond's 25 years of public service in central and local government, and his current role at the commission.

Mr Hammond will also be taking part in the university's public lecture series on December 7, examining the de-

velopment of individual rights in Britain starting with the Magna Carta in 1215, through the Barons' revolt against King John, to the Human Rights Act of 1998.

Equality and Human Rights Commission chairman Trevor Phillips said Mr Hammond would provide students with a real insight into the professional world.

He added: "We are pleased for Mark that he has been offered this role. It will be a great op-

portunity for students to learn from someone with Mark's public sector experience, and it is a welcome recognition of the growing importance of these issues in delivering excellent public services."

Mr Hammond added: "Canterbury Christ Church University has a tremendous record in public administration and government. I hope to be contributing to its work in developing courses and training for future managers of public services."

Great day for pewterers as UCA wins big

THE University for the Creative Arts came close to a clean sweep at the Pewter Live Awards, which honour the country's top pewter designers and craftspeople.

Nominees from UCA Rochester won two of the three student categories and also scooped two third-place prizes, while UCA Farnham in Surrey took home a runners-up prize at Pewterers' Hall in London.

Brian Hill, course leader of silversmithing, goldsmithing and jewellery at UCA Rochester, said: "We have been participating in Pewter Live for nearly 10 years and although we have enjoyed successes in previous years, this was definitely our strongest and best set of results to date.

"I am absolutely thrilled with the breadth and depth of achievement from our students, and it is a ringing endorsement that our crafts courses have the ability to positively respond to external live projects and creatively interpret design briefs into successful 3D pieces that are positively endorsed from the respective profession."

Third-year student Richard Gamester, 39, from Rochester, won the decorative arts category for a collection of pewter condiment pourers encased in Finnish soapstone.

He said: "It means a lot to win this award as I have worked hard throughout my course, so this recognition makes it all worth the effort.

"As a designer, winning awards is very important to help you make a name for yourself and get noticed, so I hope this award will kick-start



WINNER: UCA Rochester's Richard Gamester

my career when I leave university next year."

There was a clean sweep for UCA in the interior, architectural and furniture category, with first place going to UCA Rochester's Sanni Falkenberg for a set of pewter plant pots which create a piece of living art.

Melina Xenaki from UCA Farnham's 3D design course was runner-up with her Picasso-inspired pewter chessboard table and set, while Tyra-Jane Ward from UCA Rochester came third for her innovative magnetic key dome.

Yet another UCA Rochester student - Victoria Freeman - came third in the student fashion category for her pewter-embellished mask.

Young chefs to take part in charity fundraiser for Demelza hospices

CATERING students at Mid-Kent College have been invited to devise their own mouth-watering recipes for the Demelza Dessert Design Challenge.

Their task is to develop a pudding that could feature on the menu of the Barn Restaurant in Rainham, with proceeds from the sale of the winning dish being donated to the Sittingbourne-based Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

The student behind the winning recipe will also win a work

experience placement at the eatery, owned by chef and contest judge Damon Dalmedo.

He said: "I'm very enthusiastic about the challenge. It's a great opportunity for the students but is not an easy task.

"As well as creating a winning recipe, they will need to apply their business head, working out the costings of their dish and the sale price - what they expect people to pay for their dessert.

"Sadly, I will not get to taste

all of the wonderful new puddings because the first round of the challenge will be judged on the students' menu description of their dessert and their costings. Three finalists will be selected at this stage and invited into my kitchen to actually make their desserts."

Demelza fundraiser Laura Smyth said: "This is a great fundraising activity and different to anything we have been involved in before. I'm looking forward to the final round."

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Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. Alternatively, you can email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference: 810.

Closing date: 16 October 2011. Interview date: TBC

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

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Theatre Royal Margate
Outreach Coordinator and Administration Assistant
 £16,750 pa + relocation support if appropriate
 For application packs please call 01843 282956,
 see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com
 or email admin@theatroyalmargate.com
Deadline for applications - Monday 24th October 2011
Interviews - w/c 31st October 2011
 Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a
 registered charity (279015) and aims
 to be an equal opportunities employer.

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe
zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk
 01233 619530

NURSES
Urgently needed
 due to increased demand

Days, nights, weekday & weekend shifts in hospitals & nursing homes

£12.90 - £23.20 p/h (Dep on shift)
Free CRBs, uniforms and training!

PLEASE CALL TODAY 01227 782070
canterbury@nurseplusuk.com
www.nurseplusuk.com

Registered with the CQC
 Equal opportunities employer

EXPERIENCED SALES AGENTS required.

Local community based role, ideal for Avon Representatives or similar sales people & party planners to promote and sell Live-in Care, any previous sales experience will be considered. We are Pure Live-in Care, and we already have a network of sales agents across the UK.

COMMISSION ONLY based role, with EACH successful referral you make worth up to £1600 per year, **UNCAPPED, NO LIMIT.**

Call 0845 64 34 890, email liveincare@purehealthcarestaffing.co.uk

Business Development Manager

Currently seeking dynamic and organised sales professionals to develop and secure new business whilst generating sales opportunities in line with Company strategy. Industry experience / knowledge of the uPVC window and building materials sector is highly advantageous. Competitive Salary, Company Car, Laptop and Mobile Phone will be provided.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to recruitment@eurocell.co.uk FAO Karen Freeman

Experienced, enthusiastic Practice Nurse

required for an established, progressive and friendly family GP surgery in Sevenoaks. This is a part time position, currently 21 hours per week and the salary is negotiable up to £17 per hour dependent upon experience.

Applications with CV to:-
Keith Salter, Practice Manager,
Town Medical Centre,
25 London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1AR
 For a full job description please email brenda.sarjant@nhs.net

Investment Compliance Specialist

£55,000 - £65,000
Location; Sevenoaks or London

Your role as an Investment Compliance Specialist is to be the compliance teams main point of contact with the investment team and to implement the risk-based compliance monitoring programme as it relates to investment and the handling of daily investment queries and documentation to ensure that customer service and fair treatment practice of the Company are at the forefront of investment activity.

Your role is to advise on investment compliance and regulatory issues, contribute to the development and enhancement of investment processes, procedures and documentation impacted by regulatory considerations and undertake investment portfolio monitoring.

Candidates who apply must consider the following requirements asked of by the client and respect that applications without these requirements will not be considered for this position;

- Thoroughly conversant with the FSA Rules and associated guidance, the approach of the Financial Ombudsman Service and EU Directives affecting the financial services industry, specifically as these relate to investment compliance
- Keeps abreast of the FSA's current thinking and its requirements and expectations regarding investment compliance in an investment management business, particularly in respect of the FSA's Treating Customers Fairly principles and principles-based regulation
- Regarded as an investment compliance 'expert' for Principal
- Understands complex business and regulatory concepts and is able to anticipate and identify key issues and problems and bring them to the attention of the Head of Compliance, as necessary

StaffPro are acting as a recruitment agency in relation to this role.

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Please email your CV to leah@staff-pro.co.uk

or call 01303 817109 today!

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Email CV to jobs@totalmotorcare.co.uk
 or telephone **01304 620999**

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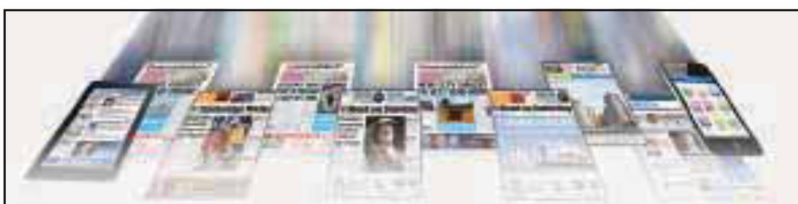
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If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Fawad Minhas, Telephone Sales Manager,
 ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
 Apple Barn, Hythe Road
 Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
 Or email: fawad.minhas@archant.co.uk

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Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School

Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9SH
Tel: 01892 521595

SCHOOL CLEANERS REQUIRED

Hours: 15.45-18.45
Monday-Friday, up to 5 days per week
£6.50 per hour

Please contact Mrs Anna Taylor, at the school for application pack

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure

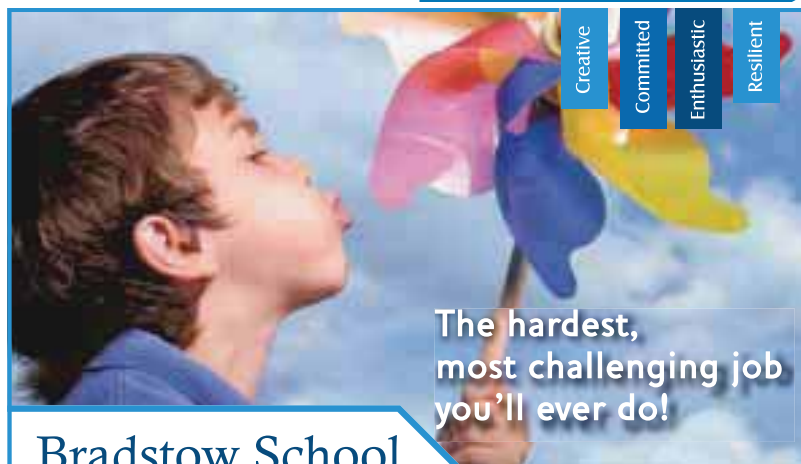
WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716

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Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE

£13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks * & £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Also Flexi-Bank Team Support Worker positions available
As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms to Childcare Teams afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 14th October 2011.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



WELFARE ASSISTANT

34.58 hrs per wk for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 3
£14,100.00 - £15,984.00 per annum
Pro rata to £11,119.41 - £12,605.16 pa
Plus SEN Allowance of £1,169 pa

If you are, or have recently been, working with physically disabled students this post may be for you. The post holder is required to support our PD students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training. Experience is essential.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 17th October 2011
Interviews: 21st October 2011

*CVs without an application form will not be accepted.
Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.*

To advertise in this section

01303 817150

THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

(An Academy for Success)
Arethusa Road, Rochester, Kent. ME1 2UW.
Headteacher: Mr P.Jackson, BSc
Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385
Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk
www.thomasaveling.co.uk

Clerk to Governing Body THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

Hours: 210 hours per annum minimum, 4 hours per week during term time, with occasional additional hours required for which overtime will be paid

Salary range: £6.62 - £9.91 per hour dependent on experience and qualifications

We seek to appoint an experienced self motivated administrator with at least 4 hours per week available to support the Governing Body at this popular local secondary school. Duties of the post will involve arranging meetings, taking minutes, and advising Governors of legal requirements in accordance with the Guide to the Law for Governing Bodies. Most meetings will be held in the late afternoon and early evening

The Clerk will be accountable to the Governing Body, will report directly to the Chair of Governors and will be required to demonstrate excellent communication and organisational skills. Training will be available and the successful candidate will be expected to work towards gaining a recognised qualification for clerks to governing bodies.

Candidates should be competent in the use of IT, including word, and have a keen interest in education. Tact and the ability to deal with matters confidentially will be essential.

Please send letter of application outlining your experience to date, together with completed application form (available on the school website) to: Mr T Brown, Chair of Governors, c/o The Thomas Aveling School at the above address or e-mail: yakrill@thomasaveling.co.uk

The Thomas Aveling School is an equal opportunities employer - committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for the successful applicant.

Closing date for applications: Friday 14th October 2011

Interviews will be held w/commencing:
Monday 17th October 2011

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Plumbing

Ref: P0396

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Chatham Maritime/Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised lecturer to join our Plumbing department in the Faculty of Construction and Engineering. The successful candidate will be required to teach and assess on Plumbing/Building Services up to Level 2. Candidates will need to be qualified to L3 in Plumbing with significant practical experience within the industry. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in English

Ref: P0320

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Chatham Maritime/Medway

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding candidate to deliver English classes on our Access to HE programmes. The successful candidate will have experience of teaching adult learners who are returning to education and experience of teaching at GCSE level would be advantageous. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Motor Vehicle

Ref: SE720

Hourly rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic candidate to teach and assess on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will possess a minimum level 3 qualification and have proven experience in the Motor Vehicle industry. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Music

Ref: SE551

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

The successful candidate will have a creative attitude coupled with excellent communication skills and will contribute to the delivery of Music programmes up to Level 3. A Degree or HND in a Music subject and professional experience with current knowledge of the music industry is essential, with the ability to conduct and guide rehearsals. The post holder will teach music theory and read music and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Wardrobe tutor and Costume Designer

Ref: SE390

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to contribute to the Productions throughout the College. The successful candidate will have proven industry experience as well as knowledge of costume design for theatre, stage costume making and stage wardrobe management. The post holder will hold a Degree level or equivalent qualification within a relevant subject area and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Recruitment Assistant

Ref: JS001

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum/pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time role available at Medway & Part time role available at Maidstone

The College is looking to recruit exceptional individuals to assist and support in the operation of the Job Shop services, developing strong links with local employers to establish employment opportunities for students. The successful candidate will provide generalist advice to teaching and support staff in line with the College and departmental procedures and assist in the day to day running of the Job Shop, a front line customer service role. Experience within a sales or marketing role is desirable.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0496

Salary: £15,503 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week/41 weeks per year

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, to join the Construction and Engineering Faculty, assisting the Head of Faculty with the day to day smooth running of the department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Chemistry Technician

Ref: P0070

18.5 hours per week Salary: £17,050 - £21,339 pro rata
(dependent on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit a highly experienced individual to support the technical provision within the Science Department from GCSE level to HND in Applied Chemistry. The successful candidate will be supporting staff and students throughout the Department and will hold a qualification in Chemistry at degree level or equivalent. Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 21 October 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Teachers Needed Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Folkestone Town Council Office, 4-5 Princes Gate, Folkestone**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Mountains, Noble Tree Road, Hildenborough**

Applicant: **Shirley Spencer**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Riley Fabrication Services Limited of unit 5, The Nortons, Collier Street, Marden, Kent. TN12 9RR is applying for licence to use Unit 5, The Nortons, Collier Street, Marden, Kent. TN12 9RR as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and to use as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Ivy House, 3 Ivy Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4QT stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representation is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office. www.businesslink.gov.uk

Kent Police Authority AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11 NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011.

An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the District Auditor on 29 July 2011. On the same date, the District Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

Inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts
Ask the Authority for a copy of the Statement of Accounts
The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9am and 4pm.

The accounts can also be found at www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk/policy-spending/statement-of-accounts
David Lewis
Treasurer



Public Notice

9 October 2011



Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposal of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury which is designated as public open space.

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land adjacent to 92 Wincheap, Canterbury, which is designated as public open space.

The proposed land to be disposed of is 74.68 sq m and is an area which formed the former public conveniences.

A plan showing the above area may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposal of the land should make them in writing to the David Reed, Strategic Director, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **Monday 7 November 2011**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE477 EYTHORNE) PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 to create new length of Public Footpath numbered EE477 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TR 2864 4885 (Point C) on the Order plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 188 metres to NGR TR 2872 4903 (Point D). Between points C-D on the Order plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 07 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE351 EYTHORNE) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered EE351 which commences at NGR TR 2856 4889 (point A) on the Order Plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 170 metres to NGR TR 2862 4905 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District

Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 07 November 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MU88 AND MU43 IN TONBRIDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MU88 AND MU43 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MU88 between Scott Road and Masefield Way and Footpath MU43 between Sussex Road and (Hayesbrook School) on Brook Street from the 21st October 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that they will reopen before 1st November 2011.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on or near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 9th October 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

COOK / JEFFERY

Helen Cook and Luke Jeffery celebrate the birth of their daughter Cara Louise Jeffery on 10th September 2011, weighing 5lbs 2oz, arriving 7 weeks early.

MUNDAY

Poppy born on 22nd September 2011, weighing 7lbs. Daughter to Michelle and Daniel and sister to Harrison.

SMITH

Rhian and Benn of Nonington are delighted to announce the birth of Max Alexander Charles Smith on 15th September 2011

DEATHS

DAISY

Len Daisy passed away peacefully on the 27th September 2011. Re-united with his beloved wife Joan and son Jeff. Funeral to be arranged enquiries to H R Palmer on 01843 592720, all welcome.

VICKERS

Dora Irene of Ashley, Kent passed away peacefully on the 25th September 2011 aged 86 years. Theres an open gate at the end of the road through which each must go alone, and there, in a

light we cannot see, you will remain close to me.

WOLF

To my beloved husband Daniel Wolf (Wolfie) Died suddenly on 20th September 2011 aged 48 years. A true gentleman who served his community well, who was deeply loved and missed by all. Close family floral tributes only please, donations to Kent Air Ambulance via Pickard and Beale. Memorial service at All Saints Church Staplehurst on Tuesday 11th October at 12.00pm to be followed by cremation at Vinters Park at 2.00pm.



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HIGHWAYS - In the District of Sevenoaks and the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

POUNDSBRIDGE LANE, PENSHURST - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Poundsbridge Lane, Penshurst between B2176 Penshurst Road and Poundsbridge Hill.

The Order will become effective on 24th October 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 10 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: B2176 Rogues Hill, B2188 High Street, B2188 Fordcombe Road, B2188 New Road, B2188 Saints Hill, B2188 Spring Hill, The Lane (Fordcombe Lane), Poundsbridge Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate ditching, verge repair and patching works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

MAYNARD AVENUE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new wastewater connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maynard Avenue, Margate, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Westfield Road.

The alternative route is via B2052 George V Avenue and Westfield Road.

MONKTON ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of remedial repairs to the road surface, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Road, Minster, on or after 24 October 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via Monkton Road, Monkton Street, Willetts Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West and Tothill Street.

A254 RAMSGATE ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during railway bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A254 Ramsgate Road, Margate, in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The planned closure times are

26 October 2011 at 11.00 pm until 27 October at 7.00 am
31 October 2011 at 11.00 pm until 1 November at 7.00 am

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Connaught Road and Queens Avenue.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via B2052 College Road, A255 St Peter's Road and Ramsgate Road

Southbound via (A255 Grosvenor Gardens, High Street) St Peter's Road, B2052 College Road, and Ramsgate Road

A256 RICHBOROUGH WAY & A299 HENGIST WAY, MINSTER (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of the East Kent Access road, Kent County

Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on the A256 Richborough Way & A299 Hengist Way, Minster, on or after 10 October 2011 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are the A256 'Richborough Way' from Ebbsfleet Roundabout to and including the new Sevenscore Roundabout, and the new A299 'Hengist Way' from Sevenscore Roundabout to a point approximately 20 metres south of Cliffsend Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ASHES LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashes Lane between A26 Tonbridge Road and High House Lane on or after Wednesday 26th October 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Cuckoo Lane, Higham Lane, Ashes Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross on 0870 050079.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BUS LANE, RAILWAY STATION, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the bus lane outside of Tonbridge Railway Station on or after Monday 10th October 2011 when required for a period of up to 25 weeks or until such works are complete.

John Sisk & Son Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow station refurbishment works to be carried out safely. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Frank Uzokwe on 01727 875551.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Butchers Lane between numbers 240 and 250 on or after Monday 24th October 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, Beaufighter Road, A228 Malling Road, The Street, Butchers Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (OLDBURY LANE, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Oldbury Lane, Ightham outside Oldbury Barn on or after Monday 24th October when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Ightham bypass (access will be available at all times).

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to allow access to replace Gas Mains. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ben Eastwood. On 0800111999

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(B2169 FURNACE LANE, HOOK GREEN, LAMBERHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (VARIOUS SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1 - (40 mph Speed Limit)

B2169 Furnace Lane Hook Green Lamberhurst	From a point 142 metres eastwards of the junction centre-line of Clay Hill Road.
Clay Hill Road, Lamberhurst	From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane north-eastwards for a distance of 47 metres.
Free Heath Road, Lamberhurst	From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane south-westwards for a distance of 73 metres.

Schedule 2 - (50 mph Speed Limit)

B2169 Furnace Lane Hook Green Lamberhurst	From a point 32 metres westwards of the centre line of the access road to Lamberhurst Manor to a point 142 metres eastwards of the centre line of Clay Hill Road, and from a point 48 metres eastwards of the East Sussex boundary and to a point 14 metres westwards from the centre-line of the access road to Nos. 2 & 3 Bull Lane Cottages.
Neills Road, Lamberhurst	From its junction with B2169 Furnace Lane south-westwards for a distance of 32 metres.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations, quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD or by email to td.sevenoaks.twells@kent.gov.uk by 7th November 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LANGTON ROAD, SPELDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Langton Road outside The Glebe House on or after Sunday 30th October 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Langton Road, Speldhurst Road, The Green, A264 Langton Road/Bishops Down/Mount Ephraim, A26 St Johns Road, Speldhurst Road, Etherington Hill, Speldhurst Hill.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A268 LINK HILL, SANDHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

A268 Link Hill, Sandhurst	From a point 32 metres east of the junction centre-line of Marsh Quarter Lane and to a point 65 metres east of the junction centre-line of Lomas Lane.
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A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations, quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent. TN24 8AD or by email to td.sevenoaks.twells@kent.gov.uk by 7th November 2011.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 9th October 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Enjoy this
relaxing
walk one
afternoon

SEE PAGE 46



**STAGE
READY**

Your guide to the
county's finest
entertainment

SEE PAGE 51

Kent Weekend



Picture: BBC

He's the voice

From 80s choirboy
star to an adult
baritone,
Aled Jones's
career has
spanned the
vocal spectrum

SEE PAGE 45

PLUS: Ancient text brings historic city to life in exhibition - **kent remembered p47** We highlight the best places to dine around the county - **eating out p48** Chevrolet's darling takes on a racy image in its new incarnation - **driving p67**



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Sorry, not suitable for children.

WHEN Aled Jones sprang into the public eye in the early 80s, it was as a small angelic choirboy with a remarkably clear treble voice. Since then, he has adapted and survived and spent almost 30 years in showbusiness.

He brings his latest show *An Evening With Aled Jones* to Tunbridge Wells this month.

He said: "This show involves a mixture of songs and chat. I have been fortunate to have seen a lot of the world as I started in this business so young, so I want to share it. I will also be doing an Ask Aled section where the audience can ask me questions."

Jones's youthful talent led to performances in front of the Queen, the Pope and Charles and Diana. He sold more than six million albums before his voice broke at 16.

However, growing up did not seem to be too much of a trauma.

He said: "It was fine. I just spent time after my voice broke playing tennis and being normal."

After studying at the Royal Academy Of Music and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Jones resurrected his recording career as a baritone. He also appeared in musicals such as *Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *White Christmas*. His love of music has not diminished.

"It is so important to me and I love singing. I love it as much now as ever. I don't see myself as a celebrity – I like to think of myself as an entertainer," he said.

The 40-year-old has become a familiar presenter on radio and television. He is best known as one of the presenters on *Songs Of Praise*.

He said: "I love doing the show. It is great fun. I get to travel and meet fantastic people and I love being part of it."

Thanks to *Songs Of Praise*, the singer's popularity has grown worldwide. In recent years he has done extensive tours of Australia, where he has a large fan base.

In his latest show he will be singing songs from his new album *Forever*. The singer co-wrote the title song on the album, which includes many familiar favourites.

Jones said: "I have a few in the show that I really like, such as *You Raise Me Up*, and also *Hushabye* is great. I think the repertoire in this show will please everyone."

Jones is best known for his songs with a Christian element, but was he ever jealous of his more outrageous rock-star counterparts?

He said: "My musical taste is varied. I like most genres, but I am happy with my lot.

Join Aled for the evening

Ed Hill speaks to the man who turned his childhood talent for song into a lifelong career



Currently I listen to Elbow, a great band."

As well as presenting on TV, Jones does a number of radio shows, such as *Friday Night Is Music Night* on Radio 2 and *The Choir*, currently on Radio 3.

And he is drawing on his experience as a child star to help mentor the young singer Isabel Suckling, who was the youngest classical recording artist signed by Decca after a nationwide hunt to find a top choirgirl.

He also has a regular show on Radio Wales. Jones was raised in the small Welsh-speaking community of Llandegfan in Anglesey.

He said: "I am very proud of being Welsh. Welsh is my first language and I go back there as often as my work permits. My parents are still there. You never leave Wales, really."

And what about the latest ways to find young talent? Jones's first success came from massive record sales of *Walking In The Air*. How does he

think he would have fared on *The X Factor*?

He said: "The industry has changed a lot. The world has. It is hard to say about *The X Factor* and me. I am not knocking anyone on *X Factor*. It is good to have a platform and they have found great singers like Rhydian."

■ **Aled Jones is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, October 12. For tickets, call 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

ON SALE NOW! - It's never too early to book your pantomime tickets!

TICKETS ONLY £13

Concessions £11
Family Ticket £48
Groups: 1 in 10 go free

Jack and the Beanstalk

Fri 23 Dec - Sat 7 Jan

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
0844 847 1776
www.leascliffhall.co.uk



GETAWAY: A feature of this picturesque route is the varied wildlife, particularly the many species of butterflies that have made this part of the Kent Downs their home, from spring through to the autumn



Beginning and ending in the village of Otford, this five-mile walk has breathtaking views along the River Darent and the Kent Downs, offering up a few surprises along the way...

THIS peaceful and uplifting walk, starting and finishing in the village of Otford, along the Darent Valley Path, is an ideal way to spend an autumn afternoon. The village is on the River Darent, which flows northwards down the valley to the Thames from its source in the Kent Downs.

Notable landmarks are the Archbishop's Palace, the duck-pond roundabout and a scale model of the solar system that claims to be "the largest scale model in the world". Otford high street is also part of the old Pilgrims' Way and still features numerous medieval buildings.

As the sounds of village life disappear behind you, the route follows the banks of the River Darent towards Shoreham.

The Darent is a Kentish tributary of the River Thames and is about 25 miles in length, stretching from Westerham to Dartford.

The village of Shoreham is steeped in history and can provide a welcome break en

route, with four traditional independent pubs from which to choose.

Also in the village is the Shoreham Aircraft Museum, founded by volunteers in 1978 and dedicated to the airmen who fought in the skies over southern England in the Second World War. The museum houses aviation relics excavated by the Shoreham Aircraft Preservation Society. These relics come from crashed RAF and Luftwaffe aircraft and are displayed alongside personal accounts of those involved.

Leaving Shoreham, you will pass the impressive churchyard of St Peter and St Paul and follow the route on an invigorating walk up the hillside towards the woodlands ahead. From here, picturesque glimpses of the valley below can be seen through the clearings.

Through mature woodland, the pathway continues before emerging on to an ancient trackway, with various viewing points taking in Otford and beyond to the Greensand Ridge of Sevenoaks.

At any time of year, this is an excellent place to pause and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere and the busy wildlife, including hundreds of colourful butterflies and wild flowers that thrive on the chalklands.

Butterflies are a feature of the Kent Downs from spring through to the autumn and the Adonis blue and chalkhill blue are completely dependant on the chalk grassland for their survival.

Other distinctive butterflies to look out for include the small blue, common blue, brown argus and marbled white.

Joining the famous North Downs Way National Trail for a short section, the route heads back towards Otford village.

While you're here, take some time to appreciate the fine medieval buildings or rest a while in one of the restaurants or traditional inns.

■ **Location:** Otford, TN14 5PG

■ **Distance:** 5 miles (8km), allow 3 hours

■ **OS Explorer Map:** 147

■ **Terrain:** steep, open farmland and hills

■ **Stiles:** 8

■ **Gates:** 6

■ **Steps:** Two sets

■ **Step count:** approx 10,000

■ **Parking:** There is a free car park in Otford, opposite The Bull public house

■ **Refreshments & facilities:** There are public houses and restaurants in Otford and Shoreham

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or phone 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).



LOTTERY WINNER: The crypt at Rochester Cathedral could soon be displaying important artefacts

Hidden treasures to emerge into the light

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

ANCIENT texts from Rochester Cathedral's library are closer to going on public display after a boost from the National Lottery.

The cathedral will receive £158,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions project.

Rochester Cathedral has nationally significant archives which are currently inaccessible to the public.

A jewel in its collection is the Textus Roffensis book. The volume is older, and according to some experts, even more significant than the Magna Carta.

The book is currently in the possession of Medway council at its studies centre.

Written by a scribe in around 1122 the Textus Roffensis or 'Book of the Church of Rochester through Bishop Ernulf' is actually two books combined.

The first part deals with the ancient Anglo Saxon laws described by King Ethelbert of Kent (who lived around the year 600).

It was written by a monk to mark coronation of Henry I and is thought to be one of the earliest examples of written English.

The second part is the earliest registry records of Rochester Cathedral. The two parts were bound together around the year 1300.

The Textus Roffensis has had a chequered history down the years. It has survived several attempts to steal it and at one time it was immersed in the



HISTORIC MANUSCRIPT: The ancient Textus Roffensis book

River Medway for a few hours when a ship it was being transported on sank.

The plan is to put the Textus Roffensis on display in the crypt and Chapter Library of the cathedral along with other treasures in the church's archive.

A cathedral spokesman said: "Rochester Cathedral believes in the ability of people to bring the cathedral's history alive through inventive activities and inspiring events.

"We are passionate about working in partnership, connecting with and working alongside individuals and communities.

"Through a specifically devised programme we hope not only to preserve the cathedral's heritage but encourage people to discover and explore the wonders of this unique building and its relevance for today."

The lottery money will go towards preparing a bid for full funding in the future. This first round pass means the project

meets Heritage Lottery Fund criteria for funding and it believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for money.

The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals.

The project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposal to compete for a full award.

Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the South East, said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund is pleased to be able to support these exciting plans to revive Rochester Cathedral and help bring the cathedral's vision a step closer to reality.

"Rochester Cathedral is a heritage treasure, and this 'green light' means these proposals can now be further developed to ensure it is preserved for future generations to explore and enjoy."

Rochester is the second oldest cathedral in the country, and has an impressive late Norman nave.

It has been a centre for prayer for more than 1,400 years and has numerous hidden treasures.

Acting Dean Philip Hesketh, said: "This is simply fantastic news: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring the Textus Roffensis home and reveal more of the cathedral's hidden treasures."

The cathedral attracts 130,000 visitors each year.

■ For news and sport see www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Opening Times
Mon - Sun 10am - 4.30pm
(last admission 3pm)

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Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Annual Passes now available from just £10

DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

Fidelio Opera
Ludwig Van Beethoven
Friday 14th October
Adult Only Ticket £25.00
with a 3-course supper £39.50

Time for Tea
A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.
Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.
*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches
Next Show Wednesday 26th October at 2pm

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Jongleurs Comedy Night
Friday 4th November
Doors open at 7.20pm • Comedians start 8.30pm
DJ til late, food available • Tickets from £10.80

Roy Walker
Saturday 26th November
Tickets only £14.75
From the 1970s TV show, The Comedians and long time host of ITV's Catchphrase.
One of the UK's Top Comics.
In conjunction with the Vintage Corporation

Christmas Events

Christmas Launch
Arrival of Father Christmas
Saturday 12th November, Free event

Christmas Jongleurs Special
Fri 2nd Dec. Best comedians in the land!
Tickets from £18.90 - Will sell out, Book Now!

Christmas Parties
Dates throughout December, from £39.50

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs
Dates throughout December, Adult £12.50 & Child £9.50

<p>Abduction (12A)</p> <p>Crazy, Stupid, Love (12A)</p> <p>Drive (18)</p> <p>Friends with Benefits (15)</p> <p>Jurassic Park(re) Digital</p> <p>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2D (12A)</p>	<p>Killer Elite (15)</p> <p>Mr Poppers Penguins (PG)</p> <p>Shark Night 3D (15)</p> <p>The Debt (15)</p> <p>The Inbetweeners (15) Digital</p> <p>The Smurf's 2D (U)</p> <p>The Smurf's 3D (U)</p>
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Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy (15)

Warrior (12A)

What's Your Number (15)

ODEON KIDS
Dairy of a Wimpy Kid 2 (U)

SENIOR SCREEN
X-Men: First Class (12A)

NEWBIES
Abduction (12A)

THE OTHER CINEMA
The Tree of Life (12A)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



Another chapter in long history of the White Horse

THE White Horse Inn has a wealth of history. The original pub in Boughton, near Faversham, was on a pilgrims' route to Canterbury and is mentioned in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

The present building was used as a magistrates court and prison cells in the 19th century, and some of the Battle of Bossenden Wood rioters were tried and sentenced there.

Today it has a very different clientele and offers hotel rooms, food and refreshments in relaxed and informal surroundings.

The restaurant has 60 covers and is airy with a wealth of original beams; it has a roaring fire ready for those cooler evenings.

The current owners have landscaped the gardens, which feature a huge weeping willow that was planted from an older tree that came down in the storms of 1989.

Food on offer is homemade and uses local produce whenever possible.

The menu features classic dishes such as steamed steak-and-onion suet pudding or slow-roast shoulder of pork, and there are vegetarian and children's options, too.

Guests can stay in one of the 13 beautifully-appointed en-suite rooms. The pub also hosts music and clairvoyant nights.

■ **White Horse Inn**
The Street, Boughton, near Faversham
ME13 9AL. Telephone: 01227 751343.
www.whitehorsecanterbury.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

MAMA FEELGOODS: Telephone 01227 830830

STARTER: Smoked trout mousse with seed toast and salad garnish

MAIN: Sirloin steak with ciabatta with red-onion marmalade and rocket garnish

DESSERT: Homemade carrot cake with marscarpone frosting

ELVEY FARM: Telephone 01233 840442

STARTER: Coarse hunter's pâté with red-onion chutney served with a Kentish huffkin

MAIN: Pork and caramelised apple pie, served with mashed potatoes and a red-wine sauce

DESSERT: Blackberry and vanilla crème brûlée

SURIN RESTAURANT: Telephone 01843 592001

STARTER: Thai dumplings served with dark homemade sauce and finely-chopped fried-garlic garnish

MAIN: Local steamed sea bass with your choice of soya sauce or spicy alternative lime sauce. For curry-lovers, panang curry is recommended. Both these dishes are best served with Thai jasmine rice as a side dish.

DESSERT: Banana cheesecake, served with cream and a drizzle of golden syrup

THE WHITE HORSE: Telephone 01227 751343

STARTER: Fresh potted crab and cucumber relish, served with toasted granary bloomer

MAIN: Grilled fillet of sea bass, served over crushed new potatoes, with brown shrimps, baby spinach and parsley butter and fresh vegetables

DESSERT: Dark chocolate and Amaretto truffle torte, vanilla ice-cream



SHOPPING WITH MAMA:

Fine foods, coffee and a delicatessen can all be found at Mama Feelgoods village store in Bekesbourne, near Canterbury

Varied delights and the feelgood factor on offer at village store

THERE is a wealth of fine foods available at Mama Feelgoods near Canterbury.

At this fine food, delicatessen and coffee store in the village of Bekesbourne, Kentish produce from artisan makers sits alongside shopping-basket staples, making shopping for dinner a real treat.

Mama Feelgoods has been open for five years and is a real chance for food-lovers to get a bit of retail therapy.

It stocks everything you need for supper, from local free-range meat, fruit and vegetables and fantastic Kentish wines to freshly-baked bread, pastas, Mediterranean goods and great-tasting olives.

There is a large cheese counter where the friendly staff are always happy to advise and give samples of the many cheeses on offer.

For a treat, there is an old-fashioned sweetshop in store where you buy loose sweets in pink-and-

white candy-stripe bags; there are liquorice comforts, rhubarb-and-custards and sweet peanuts, among many others.

There is also a cake-craft store that stocks everything you need for cake-making, whether you are making a wedding cake or just a batch of cupcakes. You can buy iced decorations and sprinkles, fancy cupcake wrappers and cases, books and equipment, alongside a funky range of kitchenware and gifts.

The café menu reflects the use of fresh local produce and many menu ingredients served are available to buy in the fine-food store.

Mama Feelgoods is open seven days a week with free parking, Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday and bank holidays 10am-4pm.

■ **Mama Feelgoods**
Chalkpit Farm, Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5EU
Telephone: 01227 830830
www.mamafeelgoods.co.uk

Flavours from the Far East to east Kent

THE Surin Restaurant in Ramsgate creates authentic Thai dishes using Kent produce, with other exotic specialities including traditional Laotian and Cambodian food.

After a nice walk along the beautiful Kentish coastline you can pop in and try the lunch menu, which is available from noon to 2.30pm.

Prices range from £6 to £9, with a special monthly menu available from £13.90. There are also delicious set menus available for groups of two or more people from £25 per person.

Main courses cost from £6.95 to £12.95. Vegetarian diners are also catered for, and a special menu is available, with starters and main dishes costing from £4.25 to £10.95.

All the food is expertly prepared by top trained staff who lovingly re-create authentic and exotic dishes with the flavours of the East.

The location of the restaurant is perfect,



standing just two minutes from the town centre and very close to the town's stunning royal harbour, boasting one of the most attractive seaviews in the county.

The eatery has been recommended by a range of experts and critics, including The Good Food Guide, The Observer newspaper, Time Out magazine, The Independent newspaper and The Guardian. It has also been awarded the accolade of runner-up Best Restaurant In Kent by the Kent Tourism Alliance.

During the coming winter months the restaurant has changed its opening hours.

From September through to March the Surin Restaurant will be open Monday to Saturday at lunchtime from 12.30pm-2.30pm and again for dinner from 6pm to 11pm.

Note that the restaurant is closed on Sunday and Monday lunchtimes.

■ **Surin Restaurant,**
30 Harbour Street, Ramsgate CT11 8HA
Telephone: 01843 592001
www.surinrestaurant.co.uk



Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, festive atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Join in for mulled wine and a varied selection of beers and real ales.

On the menu...

Three-course traditional Christmas menu at £24.95 per person – book 10 or more during December and the organiser eats for free! Please visit the website for the full menu.

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
website: www.theredlion.org

Make sure you get it right for a great occasion

THREE varieties of meat, sprouts, carrots, cranberry sauce, pigs in blankets, crackers and Christmas ale... all are key components needed to make the perfect festive feast.

But getting away from the Kent-made fruity Christmas pudding, or the locally-sourced vegetables, or even the Kentish ale, one of the most important factors that is sometimes forgotten about is the venue.

Party season is here and with less than three months until that rotund, red-suit-wearing, jolly fella slides down our chimney, or enters through the patio doors in some cases, the perfect venue to hold a Christmas feast just has to be found.

Whether it be a family gathering, a work do, or even just a romantic meal with a loved

one, you simply must make the right choice.

Tables and dates get booked up fast in Kent, so it is wise to start getting an idea of numbers and thinking of the festive feast you want to create.

The county's eateries offer a range of experiences, from simplistic, smooth and stylish in our city gastro pubs to the old beams, open fireplace and cosy atmosphere of our inns by the village green.

There is a whole range of restaurants offering festive-meal packages, some with live entertainment that will take the celebrations long into the night.

From places serving five-course lunches offering turkey, cranberries, roasted vegetables and all the trimmings, to the coastal eatery's catch of the day, Kent has something to suit surely anyone's taste. Here are six of the best.



Waterfront Dover Marina

Why here...

The Waterfront Restaurant, with beautiful sea views and a warm welcome, is the perfect place to celebrate Christmas. Lunch, dinner and party nights are held throughout the festive season.

On the menu...

The restaurant offers Christmas menus using the best of local ingredients. The international chefs provide a mix of classical festive dishes with a stylish modern touch.

How to book...

Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BP; phone: 01304 203633; email: reservations@dovermarinahotel.co.uk



The Olive Tree Ramada Dover

Why here...

With both the Grand Marquee and Olive Tree restaurant available for Christmas parties, there is no better way to celebrate the festive period with family and friends. Festive Fayre lunches include a superb three-course meal with all the Christmas trimmings, while party nights offer all this, plus a disco until midnight. Bookings are also being taken for Christmas Day lunch and

the fabulous New Year's Eve celebrations.

On the menu...

Christmas Fayre lunches and party nights offer a three-course meal, with mains served from the buffet, while the ever-popular Christmas Day lunch is a four-course meal with a choice of six main-course options available from the buffet.

How to book...

Ramada Hotel Dover, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL; phone: 01304 821230; email: events@ramadadover.co.uk

See Ho Shorne

Why here...

The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and very popular with walkers. It is close to Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches and dinners.

On the menu...

Fresh fish is prepared daily and ingredients are sourced locally. Homemade pies, curries and Italian dishes are highly popular. Suffice to say, an excellent Christmas menu is being prepared.

How to book...

Pear Tree Lane, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3JX
phone: 01474 822386
web: www.seeho.com



Spicemaster Sturry

Why here...

The Spicemaster in Sturry is one of the Canterbury area's largest restaurants offering regular live-entertainment nights. The expert chefs offer authentic Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine of excellence. With a friendly service and an extensive menu on offer, you are sure to be in for a treat with family, friends or work colleagues during the festive period.

Seating is limited, so be sure to book up early this year.

On the menu...

The Christmas party nights are on Saturday, December 3, with Absolute Abba; Saturday, December 10, with Rory Jackson (Michael Jackson tribute act), and Saturday, December 17, with the Scott Elvis tribute act. These party nights include a three-course meal and entertainment.

How to book...

Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury CT2 0EZ
phone: 01227 711774
web: spicemasterrestaurant.com



Comfort Inn Ramsgate

Why here...

The Comfort Inn at Ramsgate offers a menu of traditional home-cooked food, as well as a great atmosphere and friendly staff. Why not continue into the evening and stay the night?

On the menu...

There are a number of set menu options for this year's festive period:

- pre-Christmas lunch £14.95
- pre-Christmas dinner £19.95
- Christmas Day lunch £44.95
- New Year's Eve dinner £45

How to book...

Comfort Inn Ramsgate
phone: 01843 592345
email: reservations@comfortinnramsgate.co.uk

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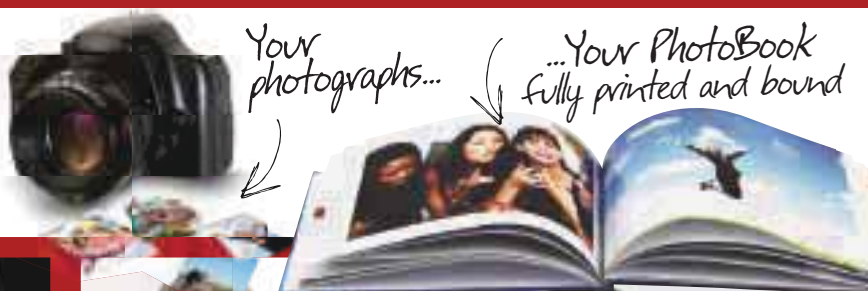
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Gospel choir New singers are sought

**Barton Evangelical Church,
Canterbury**

Thursday nights at 7.30pm
www.rogc.co.uk

A SINGING troupe in Canterbury has set up a community-based gospel choir and is looking for new members. The Reach Out Gospel Choir practises at Barton Evangelical Church on Thursday nights and is offering free taster sessions. No matter what level of singer, everyone is welcome and there will be no auditions. The group meets once a week to sing soulful arrangements including traditional spiritual songs as well as R&B, funk and pop. The choir will also be practising for large events at which they will be appearing. Excerpts from its latest concert are available on its website at www.rogc.co.uk.



Black-history celebrations Cultural focus

Locations across Medway

Throughout October
01634 306000
www.medway.gov.uk

EVENTS are taking place across Medway in October to celebrate Black History Month. The annual festival, which is held nationally, celebrates the diverse cultures and traditions that have made the UK the multicultural society it is. In Medway, celebrations will include live music, theatrical story-telling, circus tricks and specialist food events. To start things off, there will be a launch event at the Pilkington Building, Medway Campus, University of Kent, on Tuesday, October 14, when members of the county's youth parliament will host a celebration of art, dance, poetry and fashion. There will also be music and dance at Fort Pitt Grammar School and the Medway Hindu Community Centre. Also throughout the month there will be a celebration of African art at The Brook Theatre in Chatham. Elsewhere, on Saturday, October 22, there are Tales From The Caribbean And Africa at Rochester Library.

Soap stars top the panto bill Extra shows

Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone

December 3 to January 15
01622 758611
www.maidstonepanto.co.uk

THE line-up for this year's Maidstone pantomime has been revealed, with Holby City and reality TV star Jeremy Edwards taking the lead role in Aladdin. The Hazlitt Theatre will see

the same creative team that produced last year's record-breaking panto Beauty And The Beast brought back together to create another theatrical spectacular. Producer Gary Telfer said: "We're really looking forward to producing Aladdin this year, which has to be the most magical pantomime of all. "It's got a great cast of TV stars and an amazing live band. We know how popular the Hazlitt pantomime was last year – in fact, most of the shows sold out, so we've added an extra week this time and can't wait to be in Maidstone for Christmas."

There will be a massive 85 action-packed performances, including Sapphire Elia, who plays Mia Macey in Emmerdale, and Gary Damer, who plays Lenny from CBBC's Hotel Trubble. Director Rob Forknall said: "It's going to be great fun for all the family. Ever since Disney sprinkled their magic touch on the story, it's become a firm favourite with young and old alike. "We know how popular the pantomime has become over the last few years in Maidstone and we can't wait to get started with this production". Tickets are on sale now.



King Lear Shakespeare at the Wells

**Trinity Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**

Tue to Sun, October 18-23
www.trinitytheatre.net

THIS year the Trinity Theatre has been sponsored by the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages scheme, which supports amateur production teams performing Shakespeare. The first play that will be undertaken is King Lear, which sees an ageing father give away all his property to his children, who then find housing him a problem and squabble among themselves. With madness setting in, the king loses his grip on reality and is forced to examine the consequences of power, pride and love. A Trinity spokesman said: "We feel we can do great



justice to this production, with professional director Fran Gilpin of Glydebourne and opera by definition, together with some of our finest actors, including Michael Elliott, a very experienced actor who has performed with the National Theatre, in the lead." The cast also includes Matt Penfold and Sam Cook (What The Butler Saw), Kris Robertson (Accidental Death Of An Anarchist) and Alison Fielding (Ruth Rendell Mysteries and Casualty).



Folk makes it into the light Kate Rusby

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**

Thursday, October 27
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

ONE of the defining voices of contemporary English folk music, Kate Rusby, is heading to Tunbridge Wells in October. With exquisite interpretations of traditional songs, as well as her own tunes, Rusby has won an audience that reaches beyond the genre, a rare achievement for a folk artist. In November 2010, she released her new album, Make The Light, her first record of solely her own music. This release has been well received by critics and fans

alike and features Rusby's all-new band, who have been drawn from the cream of Britain's folk instrumentalists. Accompanied by these players, Rusby will tour in 2011 performing songs from Make The Light, together with much-loved favourites chosen from across her entire back catalogue. Rusby's singing and her new band's support ensure that audiences will be treated to a remarkable concert experience. The combination of original songs and working with new musicians has been a refreshing and rewarding experience for the artist. She said: "Much has happened since the last album was released – and mainly good things! "So Make The Light reflects that – mainly songs of hope and positivity."

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Herbal teas are great for autumn

AS the warm summer days fade away and become just a memory, so energy levels can drop off and what were once pleasures when it comes to looking and feeling healthy become chores.

But making sure you are at your best does not have to go down with the sun – with a little attention you can spring into the season with the vibrancy of the orange and red leaves currently falling from the trees.

Because of the cold and sometimes dry nature of autumn, the key to good

health is to keep lubricated and warm.

Usually we tend to bathe and then use moisturisers, but a tip for the colder period is to reverse that order.

When you oil the body before showering, the hot water further opens the pores of your skin and drives the oil deeper into the tissues.

If you use a light natural soap, you will find that your body remains very lightly oiled after showering – not enough to stain clothes or feel strange, but enough to give further lubrication and protection throughout the day.

In autumn, nuts are naturally in season and other seasonally-appropriate foods include pumpkins – which are always popular, thanks to their Halloween connections.

Warm herbal teas with ginger, cinnamon, cloves or cardamom are all good autumn balancing beverages.

Walking through autumn leaves, yoga and meditation are the perfect seasonal activities – a good brisk walk is one of the best ways to invigorate yourself and enjoy some of the beautiful scenery for which this time of year is justly famous.



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The great British weather has always been good at keeping us on our toes – after a wet and dreary summer, October brought a mini heatwave and now we're predicted snow, but whatever the skies throw at us next a trip to Heat Design is sure to help you keep prepared and – most importantly – warm this winter



WITH another cold winter on the horizon and rising gas prices, there has never been a better time to consider your heating options.

With friendly, passionate and independent advice, Heat Design in Canterbury has everything you need to get your family ready for the winter.

Last year saw an unprecedented winter, with trains grinding to a halt and cars being abandoned in the road. The conditions were so severe that they apparently slowed down the whole UK economy, preventing economic growth forecasts from being accurate.

The Exacta independent weather group predicted that we could be seeing the same sort of conditions this year, with moderate snowfall beginning as early as this month. Heat Design is here to get you ready.

Heat Design has a huge range of wood stoves and gas fires, firewood and range cookers. Its on-site heating engineer is a member of the Rangemaster Guild and on hand to discuss improving the heating of your home.

Regardless of the size of the project, Heat Design can help out... from adding a wood stove to your hot-water system, to installing a municipal wood-chip boiler to heat a block of houses. Heat Design's leading-edge provision of solar thermal technology offers an innovative and environmentally-friendly option for heating hot water.

As a way of heating your home, the humble wood stove has come on a long way. Modern models are highly efficient, safe and beautifully designed. Clean-air technology allows many wood stoves to be used in a smoke-control area while reducing their environmental impact through advanced engineering to a minimum.

The efficiency of the burn means lower fuel costs and more heating for your money. From futuristic modern design to the traditional wood stove, Heat Design stocks hundreds of models from leading brands, catering to every taste: Chesney's, Hunter, Euroheat, Barbas, Dovre, Yeoman, Stovax, Rais and Woodwarm.

At the Heat Design showroom in Roper Close, Canterbury, you can see the wood stoves at work. Larger models can also heat hot water.

Heat Design also stocks a range of the very latest gas fuel-efficient fires from Gazco and Bellfires. If gas is your preference, these are a great way to keep costs down.

Range cookers can also provide heating. Though often used for cooking, range cookers from Rayburn and Esse allow you to plug them directly into a hot-water system.

There are plenty of other inventive heating ideas. Solar thermal, for example, allows the positioning of discreet panels to harvest the natural energy of the sun, converting it into hot running water.

Biomass boilers utilise renewable fuels to heat your home and provide running hot water; the flexibility of this concept allows it to be used in homes or businesses large or small.

However you decide to keep warm this winter, Heat Design is here to help.

Find Heat Design at Roper Close, off Roper Road, Canterbury CT2 7EP; phone 01227 457643 or visit heatdesignkent.co.uk. Opening times: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm.



■ Cooking with a Rayburn is a joy.

Next Saturday, October 15, Rayburn and AGA chef Mandy Gooden will at Heat Design demonstrating just how much you can get out of cooking on a Rayburn.

She'll be handing out food straight from the oven and putting the range cooker through its paces.

A heating engineer will also be on hand to show you how to incorporate a Rayburn into your home.

Heat Design is also offering up to 50 per cent off selected cookware and 15 per cent off other cookware items not already discounted. This includes branded ranges from AGA and Rangemaster.



■ Christmas is just around the corner.

From mulled wine to mince pies to full Christmas dinner, on Tuesday, November 15, 'Lady AGA' Mandy Gooden will be showing how to make your AGA into a factory of delicious festive cheer.

There'll be plenty of free hot food samples to eat and your chance to put your questions to a professional who knows the AGA inside and out.

Heat Design will also be offering 15 per cent off all cookware and cook books – perfect for that stocking-filler for the keen chef.

■ **This event is expected to reach capacity, so book early to avoid disappointment by calling 01227 457643, or go online to <http://bit.ly/agaxmas>**



■ When the snow falls, there's nothing better than being snug and warm in your own home. Whether you want a new fire to warm you, or a cooker to help you prepare winter's warming dishes, Heat Design has something to suit every taste





Conversion gives iconic hotel a new lease of life

THE seascape views that inspired JMW Turner to declare "these are the loveliest skies in all Europe", combined with the release of rental apartments in one of Margate's grandest seafront buildings, is giving a new generation the chance to sample the town's cultural revival.

Standing just above the £17 million Turner Contemporary gallery, The Arcadian building enjoys the same elevated panoramas of Margate's famous seascape.

"You can see why Turner was so captivated by this coastline and why it inspired him to paint his masterpieces," said Geoffrey Berger, who is developing The Arcadian. "The light constantly changes and the views stretch for miles."

The Arcadian, until recently a notorious eyesore, is a conversion comprising 14 one- and two-bedroom apartments. Built in the late 1800s, it was originally Lilley's Hotel Arcadian, a 19th-century bolt-hole for well-to-do Victorians leaving smog-ridden London for Thanet's fresh sea air.



Its character and history is preserved by the development's careful replica of The Arcadian's wrought-iron balcony and hotel signage.

Inside, the apartments are spacious, with Victorian high ceilings and panoramic windows. The internal finish includes hand-fitted kitchens and solid-wood worktops, while some apartments have private balconies and all are Sky+ ready.

The seafront and Margate's golden main sands are a short stroll down Fort Hill and the historic Old Town is to the left. In summer, this Continental-style piazza hosts a growing calendar of

events, including a jazz festival in July.

Furnished or unfurnished, one-bedroom apartments start at £450 pcm, with two-bedroom apartments from £550 pcm.

Since 2010, high-speed train services from London St Pancras make the city-to-coast commute 90 minutes and, together with the opening of the Turner Contemporary, are rejuvenating the town.

Boutiques, private galleries and cafés opening in the Old Town quarter have boosted tourism, while plans to reopen Dreamland as the UK's first heritage theme park in 2013 will see the town gain a second major attraction.

A quicker way to move into your dream home

HOME-HUNTERS who want to move but are struggling to sell their home can take advantage of Taylor Wimpey's 48 Hours Weekend at Leybourne Chase.

This weekend, October 8-9, house-hunters are being offered the chance to sell their old property and secure a new home in just 48 hours at the builder's flagship development near West Malling.

Visitors will be met by a team of experts who can help them part-exchange their property in just two days, subject to terms and conditions.

The scheme is designed to help make moving to a new home easier and stress-free, and will be available on a selection of homes at Leybourne Chase.

Fiona Creed, of Taylor Wimpey, said: "Our 48 Hours Weekend is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

for house-hunters to buy a new home and sell their old one just two days after agreeing a part-exchange price – so they could find themselves owning their dream home much sooner than they might otherwise have expected.

"Customers who fear it will take forever to sell their home can book an appointment to attend our 48 Hours Weekend at Leybourne Chase and find out how quickly they could move to their dream home."

Part-exchange customers receive an agreed price for their existing property, based on the average of independent valuations.

The scheme is available with selected family-sized properties at Leybourne Chase, where three-bedroom homes are priced from £249,995 and four-bedroom detached homes are available from £399,995.

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Guide Price £400,000

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Broadstairs, Kent
Guide Price £POA

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Walmer, Kent
Guide Price £100,000

Single plot available subject to planning – available with existing property with guide price of £450,000



Tonbridge, Kent
Guide Price £425,000

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Allhallows, Kent
Offers Invited

Site available subject to the renewal of planning for 5 detached houses backing onto countryside



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A fine detached 6 bay period barn with planning consent for conversion to a 3,000 sq ft residential dwelling



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Guide Price £595,000

Single plot for a detached house of approx. 3,500 sq ft set in 1 acre with stunning views over open countryside



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Guide Price £500,000

Single plot of approx. 0.25 acre with planning for a detached 5 bedroom house of 3,000 sq ft plus loft style room



Sandhurst, Kent
Guide Price £600,000

Site with planning permission for two detached 5 bedroom houses of approx. 2,400 sq ft each – available separately at £300,000 for each plot



Brookland, Kent
Offers Invited

Site with planning permission for 2 x 4 and 2 x 3 bedroom detached houses

Activity for all the family at Kings Hill

With cricket on the green and walks in the nature park, Kings Hill is now an established community like a traditional English village. Its many different homes are supported by a balanced mix of facilities - sports clubs, shops, doctors and schools. Its 323 hectares (800 acres) are landscaped and a network of thoughtfully designed footpaths, cycle ways and 'green walks' links the homes with all the facilities so encouraging walking and cycling.

Kings Hill includes 150 acres of former farmland which already includes Warren Woods nature park with woodland walks and trails, and is planned also to include sports pitches and an area of allotments for residents. Also at Kings Hill there is a David



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Lloyd Leisure racquets, health and fitness club, together with a new cricket ground and pavilion. These facilities join Kings Hill's long-established 18-hole golf course, which was designed to PGA championship standard and offers an enjoyable challenge to all golfers. Set in over 200 acres of undulating terrain, it features large areas of protected heath and ancient woodland.

Coming home to Kings Hill is a comfortable experience with its sensitive landscaping, well-managed community and expanding amenities. Survey results show that 40% of Kings Hill residents have moved to the village because it offers greater space and a pleasant, clean environment. They also find it to be safe, friendly and family-oriented with easy access to its schools, restaurants and shops. Just a short walk or cycle ride reaches the heart of Kings Hill. Focused around pedestrian friendly squares and streets, Liberty Square is Kings Hill's retail and social amenity area providing shopping, eating out and medical facilities.

Development plans will see Waitrose open a large 9,000 sq ft convenience store in time for Christmas 2011 and a total of 20,000 sq ft of new retail space, together with the restoration of the control tower and new landscaping providing plenty of open space for relaxation.

Sculpture is a major feature of Kings Hill, with many artworks now installed as public art around the village. Innovative pieces delight both the village centre and nestle happily in the backwaters of some of the housing areas. The sculpture works as part of the living environment and encourages residents to develop a pride in their surroundings and their village. Indeed, at Kings Hill such attention to the soft and social infrastructure of life has resulted in international surveyors, CB Richard Ellis, naming it as the number one example, for a large new



community, of 'placemaking' in the country.

Residents wishing to live at Kings Hill can choose between quality traditional and highly contemporary homes being built by leading house builders Environ Communities, Hillreed Homes and Taylor Wimpey. Local architectural styles allow the features of Kentish village houses to provide a sense of place, while modern specifications provide the latest lifestyle innovations. Importantly, a variety of homes are available for purchase at Kings Hill, allowing the community to become genuinely mixed in age profile. Prices start at £192,950 for apartments and range through two, three, four and five bedroom houses up to £892,000 for larger family homes.

More information about Kings Hill is available from the web site www.kings-hill.com.

The site includes travel information and the car share scheme, as well as details of Kings Hill's retail facilities.



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Be safe on the roads this winter

JUST a few minutes spent making sure your car is in good condition can save a world of annoyance by preventing an easily-avoidable breakdown as well as making sure the MOT test is just a formality.

Before a long journey or one in the dark, you need to make sure that both of your headlights are fully functioning. To do this, just turn the ignition enough to be able to work the headlights, put the lights on and walk round to the front of your car. If one of your bulbs has blown, you'll need to get a new one.

If your oil light comes on, you could be in big trouble – you need to pull over safely and sort it out as quickly as you can, as without enough oil your car could be a serious hazard to you and other road-users.

Before long journeys, it is a good idea to check that the oil level in your engine is adequate to travel. To do this, locate the dipstick under the bonnet of your car, take it out and wipe it clean, look for the minimum and maximum indicators on the dipstick and then dip it back in the oil.

Windscreen-washers do need to be topped up

regularly, especially if you do any driving on country roads as silt and dirt will quickly build up on your windscreen.

You should always check your tyre pressure before a long journey; do this by putting the pressure of your weight on the top of each tyre with your foot – if the tyre has a lot of give and you are able to squish it down, then you'll need more air in your tyres. You can remedy this at most petrol stations.

Lastly, always ensure you have enough petrol in the tank to cover all eventualities.



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Chevy hits Cruze control

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHEVROLET got serious in 2009 after tinkering with bits and pieces of cars produced from absorbing former Korean brand Daewoo in 2005 – it launched the new Ford Focus-size Cruze.

This was the General Motors (GM) value brand's first all-new model for the UK and European market and has gone on to become a true global model.

It was a far cry from warmed-over Daewoo Chevs – many derived from even older-generation GM cars. The Cruze also wore Chevy's new two-part grille with style and used a state-of-the-art platform from the then-forthcoming Vauxhall Astra replacement.

However, there must have been politicking behind the scenes because the Cruze arrived as a saloon only and Brits, in particular, do not buy many saloons in the Focus/Astra segment.

It rather suggests that Vauxhall, about to launch the latest Astra, might have been allowed to veto a Cruze hatchback at that time.

Nevertheless, the Cruze has been a big success for Chevy dealers, marrying looks and quality with first-rate safety features and the brand's typical value plus five-year warranty, and all enhanced by a racy image accrued from successful campaigning in the British Touring Car Championship.

And the car's popularity now has the chance to kick on with, finally, the addition of a hatchback version; while not as handsome as the saloon, it wins on practicality with a decent-size load space and, despite the rear-end rake, good headroom.

Needless to say, it also carries over the style, smart interior, generous standard spec – including stability control, fully-adjustable driver's seat and air-con – and keen pricing of its saloon forerunner.

CHEVROLET CRUZE 2.0VCDI LTZ: PRICE £17,795

FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£130/year
Best rival:	Skoda Octavia
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BIG LITTLE MOVER: The 2.0-litre diesel we tested is the pick of the range, while big successes in the British Touring Car Championship (picture above) has further boosted the Cruze image and sales

While it cannot compete dynamically with stars of the sector, such as the VW Golf, the Astra and the Focus, it is a viable alternative to other value contenders such as the Czech Skoda Octavia and those Korean twins, the Kia Ceed and Hyundai i30 – coincidentally, Chevrolet also builds the Cruze in Korea.

Cruze prices start at a tempting £13,805, but that's for the entry-level saloon in S trim – the hatchback starts at £13,995 in the more upmarket LS trim that brings you electric windows all round, alloys and more.

Even at these trim levels, interior quality and materials are impressive, with none of the scratch-prone finishes seen on earlier Chevs.

Dashboard layout is also top-notch, though my knee kept accidentally nudging the fan control, mounted low down on the centre console. There is also lots of useful stowage and – for the kids' game- and DVD-players – a 12v socket in the back, where legroom is also better than average for the class.

Getting quality right at lower level also allows high-spec variants to truly impress, such as the £17,795 160bhp 2.0-litre diesel LTZ hatch tested here.

The diesel engine costs more but is the pick of the powertrain bunch, being powerful, smooth and willing in all situations and backed ably by a tidy six-speed manual gearbox – a six-speed auto costs an extra £1,000.

As we have previously reported, though, don't rule out the petrol engines and, notably, the affordable 122bhp 1.6 petrol – if you don't cover many miles, then this is a good budget buy.

On the other hand, business users and high-mileage private buyers looking for something different will like the diesel's power with economy – it should average around 50mpg.

Out on the road, it is soon obvious that the Cruze is set up more for comfort than handling, but it does not lack for grip.

The steering could be a tad light for some drivers' tastes, though.

First **GEAR**

MOTORING NEWS



Generation IX for new Civic

HONDA'S order books are open for the ninth-generation 2012 Civic – priced from £16,495.

Due in January, it comes in 1.4 or 1.8 petrol or as a 2.2 diesel, with a fuel-saving stop/go system on manual versions.

A five-inch dashboard screen shows mpg, stop/go status, climate and audio settings. There is also an ECON mode to save fuel.



Now there's an i40 saloon

HAVING conceded estate or tourer models are taking over the family-car sector, Hyundai launched its first eye-catching i40 model in that format.

But the saloon model arriving in January will also have admirers, especially with the generous spec and pricing from £17,395, plus low emission, consumption and taxes.



Pulling power of the Czechs

SKODA keeps retaining awards and the latest repeat win is the 2012 Caravan Club Towcar of the Year £25,000-£32,000 sector crown for the Skoda Superb Estate Elegance 2.0-litre TDI, fitted with the smooth twin-clutch DSG gearbox.

Judges said it was "the best on hill starts by a mile", "effortless to tow with" and "confidence-inspiring".

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Motability



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P O M P H R E Y S A L W A Y S S O M E T H I N G E X T R A

Wind-in-the-hair Golf back after nine-year break

1st DRIVE

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING been a hugely successful maker of affordable four-seat convertibles, you wonder why VW has delayed nine years before replacing the Mark 3 Golf convertible.

Two latter-day reasons may be that the German marque already has the elegant folding hard-top Eos (from £23,130) and sister brand Audi produces the desirable A3 convertible (from £20,915).

In fact, with the newly-launched Mark 6 Golf Cabriolet, above right, costing similar money (from £20,720), the reasoning still looks shaky until you see the car and drive it – it is impressive and refined.

At the launch, VW made a beautifully-kept 1980s Mark 1 Golf soft-top available to highlight the new car's level of sophistication.

The old car and its Mark 3 replacement needed a roll-bar for safety, which marred its lines when the top was down, whereas the new car has a hidden protector that pops up automatically plus copious airbag



protection should the Golf overturn.

The visual result is elegant, aided by a windscreen more sporty than the Golf hatchback, and by an automatic cover over the retracted roof.

Perhaps more impressive is how much of the standard Golf's exceptional interior refinement has been carried over, despite lopping off the roof – 'roof-up' mode feels like being in a conventional hatchback.

Naturally, the hatchback's cabin has transferred, too, so everything feels well-made, durable and logical, though some buyers might expect more pizzazz – soft-top buyers are rarely shrinking violets.

Then again, maybe this Golf will

tempt those who haven't considered a soft-top before but recognise the VW delivers similar practicality to the three-door hatch.

OK, you lose the hatchback opening, but the efficient electric roof – it takes just 9.5 seconds to raise or lower – robs little boot space, unlike some folding hard-top convertibles.

Roof-down capacity is 250 litres – not bad against the hatchback's 350 litres with rear seats in place.

There is also an excellent choice of powertrains, including an eco-friendly 104bhp 1.6-litre BlueMotion diesel – the SE version (£23,245) is expected to be a UK best-seller with about a fifth of all sales.



The other top-seller is likely to be the entry power option, a turbocharged 1.2-litre petrol engine offering the same output, though I thought the lively turbocharged 158bhp 1.4-litre GT model (from £25,295) delivered the best of the Golf's excellent chassis and driver experience. Whichever version you choose, this is a highly useable as well as striking soft-top.

■ VW has also comprehensively revamped its popular Tiguan junior SUV – its fourth-best-seller after the mid-sized Golf, Polo supermini and Passat family model.

The Tiguan sits somewhere between a proper small off-roader like

the Land Rover Freelander and 'soft-roaders' like the Toyota RAV4.

For those who really don't need 4x4 but like the Tiguan's spacious cabin, good road manners and high driving position, there is an eco-friendly front-wheel drive option.

Uniquely, though, at the other extreme, the Tiguan is offered with a choice of two front ends: an 18-degree angle of approach selected by most buyers and an 'Escape' model, which has a more acute 28-degree off-roading nose.

There's also more dash about the car's looks now, particularly with a new grille in line with other VWs.

The new Tiguan starts at £21,085.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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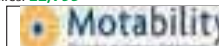
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2001 51 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T Arc, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 86,000 miles, BLUE, 3 Owners, Alloy wheels, Roof rails, Radio/CD, Traction control, Full lock, Remote central locking, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alarm, Rear window locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Insurance Group 12 **£2,795**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT AERO, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 143,150 miles, metallic silver, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front airbags, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear airbag, Roof rails, Radio/CD/Cassette, Side airbags, Rear headrests, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights,

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Commercial Vehicles

Bounce-back for van sales in the UK

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

COMMERCIAL vehicle sales have bounced back this year and are running at almost a quarter up on 2010.

That's not just good news for the industry – it may signal underlying confidence at last in the economy since vans and trucks oil the wheels of the country's business and industrial output.

Paul Everitt, chief executive at motor-industry mouthpiece the SMMT, said: "August saw the strong and sustained bounce-back continue across much of the van and truck industry as operators returned to more typical replacement schedules."

But he added a note of caution: "Industry is optimistic, but short- to medium-term economic uncertainty is likely to temper the rate of future growth."

His reluctance is understandable as domestic and international business

confidence remains in low gear.

And, as Mr Everitt hints, some demand has been driven by operators, large and small, recognising that they can only push so far beyond their normal replacement schedule before upgrading their vehicles.

Many have delayed in the hope of an economic upturn, only to find that ageing vans start to look tatty – with public image consequences – and incur more unprofitable downtime for maintenance.

On the other hand, many operators are upgrading for a new reason; van powertrain technology is beginning to echo that of the car sector, so there are real commercial and even public-relations benefits from running a leaner and meaner fleet with better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

For Kent firms operating into London, there is also an opportunity to save on the capital's congestion charge by buying vans with CO2 emissions below 100g/km.



MOVING UP: The Renault range is a dominant force across the sector, launching a London congestion charge deal on new vans, worth up to £6,000 per vehicle

There are small diesels capable of this, but some makers get around this by offering dual-fuel petrol/LPG models, too.

Users of smaller vehicles also order

petrol vehicles and pay for an aftermarket conversion.

However, panel-van-operators cannot hope to escape the charge, so some makers have got together with

Transport for London, which levies the charge – due to increase to £100 per day for most vans on January 3 next year – and offered a subsidy worth thousands of pounds per vehicle to any operator upgrading against a new lower-emission van.

Smaller operators are also playing a part in the recovering market because they are being forced to buy new due to a scarcity of decent used stock, caused by the big boys hanging on to their fleets for longer and running up galactic mileages.

Indeed, a new report from auction giant BCA reckons the van market faces a 'black hole' in supply in the years ahead due to new-van registrations tumbling when the recession hit in 2007.

The report assumes that national demand for used vans will be in the region of 300,000 annually as the economy improves, leaving a yawning shortfall of some 275,000 first-time used vans entering the market between late 2011 and 2015.

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VAN FARE FOR THE COMMON MAN: Pick-up trucks such as the Mitsubishi L200, left, and the Isuzu Rodeo, far left, are now becoming more popular

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WE'VE all heard of White Van Man, but is there another breed on the road worthy of the label – Pick-Up Truck Man?

Certainly, the number of pick-ups – also known as 'utes' (utility trucks) and 'bakkies' in other parts of the world – has rocketed in the UK in recent years, both as commercial and leisure vehicles.

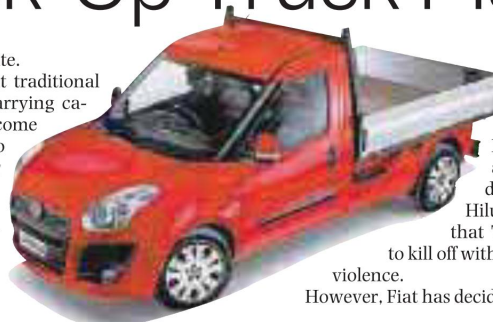
One reason for private numbers rising is tax anomalies, but many commercial operators also recognise that they are relatively cheap yet capacious workhorses available with two- or four-door cabs and, in the case of the 4x4 models, able to go most places required on a

farm or construction site.

Could it be also that traditional off-roaders lack the carrying capacity and have become too gentrified? Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check-shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

There is certainly an air of Americana

Is Pick-Up Truck Man new WVM?



about contenders like the Mitsubishi L200, Isuzu Rodeo and the legendary Toyota Hilux – the vehicle that Top Gear failed to kill off with fire, water and violence. However, Fiat has decided that post-re-

cession real-world economics needs to be applied to the sector, too, and has launched a version of its award-winning Doblo Cargo van, pictured left.

Called the Doblo Work Up, it's a 'dropside' vehicle with compact external dimensions allowing easy use in urban areas, though Fiat sees it selling across the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city parks services sectors, too.

It can transport anything from frames of glass to three euro pallets or 33 boxes of fruit. Both diesel-engine options feature a fuel-saving



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Go business-class with Citroën's free fuel offer

FREE fuel for a year is the tempting offer to small business and owner/driver van-buyers from Citroën at the moment.

Part of the French marque's 'Business Class' commitment, the offer applies to buyers via outright purchase or Citroën's Elect 3 Pro (PCP) or hire purchase (installment credit).

Scott Michael, Citroën's commercial vehicle operations manager, said: "In today's tough economic climate, businesses need to make

savings and the new Citroën light commercial vehicle (LCV) Free Fuel for a Year scheme meets this key business need. It enables our business-sector customers to benefit from some of the most fuel-efficient LCVs on the market and also to have their fuel costs paid for 12 months."

Free-fuel customers can also make the fuel go further with the Citroën Trafficmaster sat-nav package fitted as standard to Berlingo, Dispatch and Relay panel vans.

Vantrepreneurs' challenge to male stronghold in van sector

GIRL power could be challenging White Van Man, according to AA Insurance.

Research showed that a third of van-owners are now women; female florists, perhaps not surprisingly, comprise one of the top categories.

The ladies say that modern van features such as air-con, CD/MP3 sound systems, power-assisted steering and sat-nav, plus better-arranged and car-like cabs, have made

it easier for them to encroach on what used to be male territory.

Norwich Union Direct research supported the AA findings and identified a new female business community dubbed 'vantrepreneurs'.

With women already exerting more force on how cars are marketed and sold, 'girl power' is widely expected to increase its influence on the van sector, especially as many of the smaller vehicles are car-derived.



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White Van Man is given his creature comforts

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAN design has been revolutionised over the past decade or so. Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Much of the latter benefits have come about because of crossover designs from cars.

Initially, this was confined to smaller models derived from superminis or family hatchbacks, such as the Ford Fiesta or Fiat Punto vans; all that was needed was to blank out the rear windows and the driver could enjoy all the benefits of the equivalent car-owner, including air-con and a decent sound system.

But the same philosophy has since travelled up the line to larger vans, which can sometimes be derived from the platforms of popular hatchbacks, too, even if the van body is bespoke.

The range of van capacities has also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback used by a courier company or perhaps as a small company's runabout, right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers also take up the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

On the performance front, petrol-driven vans may still be available, but they have been all but displaced by the better economy and range plus pulling power low down in the rev range of four- and five-cylinder diesels.

Diesel operating benefits are then compounded by extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts.

The engine's partner, the gearbox, has also had a change. A six-speed manual gearbox is normally the standard – a couple of cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also gained from the car market; along with driver's airbag and the option of passenger, side and front curtain airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).



HYUNDAI ILOAD: This big-panel van highlights the high-spec affordability of the Korean maker, but it's necessary in a competitive market where driver comfort comes to the fore



TOYOTA HIACE: the Japanese marque championed driver comfort with high specifications on its popular panel van

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DELIVERING THE GOODS: Flexibility and economy of vans like the Trafficmaster, far right, and Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, right, have underpinned e-commerce revolution



By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Internet action drives van sales

VANS lubricate the UK economy and they have become even more important with the arrival of e-commerce and internet-based ordering.

Such doorstep deliveries often require small cargo volumes but lots of stops and even greater choice of van and loading flexibility.

Whether it is a book or large item of office equipment, private and commercial customers expect the goods to be there within 24 hours.

And transport is the indispensable precondition: food, books and office materials cannot be sent through a broadband cable.

At the same time, society is changing: the size of households is decreasing, while the number of single-occupant households is increasing.

This has an effect on day-to-day requirements – people shop in smaller quantities and need smaller packs.

By 2015, the daily volume of parcels is expected to have doubled to some 14 million across the UK and Europe, compared with 1996.

The downside is increasing fuel prices, expected scarcity of raw materials and access restrictions to cities and towns. And the debate about emissions of fine particles, CO2 and other exhaust constituents is forcing the transport sector on to the defensive.

On the other hand, e-commerce could help reduce traffic volumes if intelligent solutions are applied such as online supermarket shopping; while delivery traffic will increase, it should be balanced by much lower consumer traffic on the roads.

So low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions are in the interests of the transport sector, even

if we don't take soaring fuel prices into account.

Mercedes-Benz – already one of the market leaders in the UK van sector – has pioneered a more economic and eco-friendly van operation with its Mercedes-Benz Sprinter with Eco Start and BlueEfficiency systems.

This model is particularly effective in densely populated areas with a high proportion of stop-and-go traffic, enabling considerable savings to be achieved – Mercedes-Benz estimates a normal reduction in fuel consumption by 5-8 per cent but sometimes as high as 20 per cent and offering rapid payback on the slightly higher cost of the Eco Start feature.

Other makers have been catching up, though, on emissions and there is a further fuel-saving/

emissions-slashing approach being pursued by Citroën LCV, which fits Trafficmaster Smartnav system as standard to its vans, including the Trackstar stolen-vehicle-tracking add-on.

The French marque has now fitted 50,000 Citroën vans with the system and claims some impressive figures to show what sat-nav can deliver:

- the equivalent of 6,500 working days regained in 2010 due to congestion avoidance
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